

Konjiki no Word Master

Arc 06: Prelude to the War

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Chapter 267 – Countdown to the Start of War

Everyone who heard the truth from Aquinas report had their breaths taken away. Moreover, the fact that Aquinas had been acquainted with the Founder Demon Lord, even to the point he witnessed her last moments, everyone was so speechless that they could only do nothing but stare at him.

Aquinas had his usual expressionless look....but it was only Liliyn who noticed a faint flickering flame of regret in his red eyes. And as to what that regret was....Liliyn somehow understood and felt irritated by it.

Perhaps, he regrets not being able to protect the 【Shanjuumon Cave】 she had left behind. Because he was too overwhelmed by the powerful illusions of Adams' 《Core》 and as a result, he was unable to protect his promise to her.

And that promise was to protect the hidden treasure inside 【Shanjuumon Cave】. The 《Core》 wasn't for the sake of someone alive in this world, but was only an embodiment protecting the place where the precious memories of Adams and her friend was filled.

“....Aquinas, why have you kept silent on this matter until now?”

Eveam spoke with a slightly criticizing tone.

“....I just thought that having people know of the 《Core》's existence, more will try to obtain it.”

“I would never do such a thing!”

“Besides.”

“Eh?”

“Besides... she’s not a person who would purposely want others to know of her own sufferings.”

It seems Aquinas was someone worth of respect as well. He thought that the personal matter of Adams killing her own friend wasn’t something others should just casually know about.

(He is still so loyal to a fault as usual)

Liliyn stared at Aquinas with a rather unpleasant mood while she clicked her tongue. Eveam also realized his intentions and paused a bit.

If such a situation did not occur, then Liliyn thought Aquinas wouldn’t have revealed this kind of topic.

“That’s why...”

At that time, it was obvious that Aquinas’ anger was leaking out from him. Even Eveam and Marione held their breath in face of that atmosphere.

“That’s why I always make a clear distinction. What I should say or do in order to protect that place.”

Of course, the anger was directed to Predecessor Demon Lord Avoros who destroyed 【Shanjuumon Cave】. And Liliyn knows....that he was also such a man.

(Even though he looks like a cool person from the surface, his

harshness hasn't changed as usual)

His strength was the real deal, and many people were in awe of him for being the 『Strongest Evila』. Of course, included in that awe were a mix of envy, admiration and fear as well.

“Thank you for speaking honestly, Aquinas.”

At mention of Eveam's unexpected words, Aquinas who was a little surprised, murmured the name of the young princess.

“However, I want you to put your faith in me a little more.”

“.....”

“Don't hide it to yourself.”

“.....”

“I know it's hard to reveal such painful things from the past. But let me help and carry that burden. Because..... I'm everyone's Demon Lord!”

Even if she was the Demon Lord, there wasn't really an obligation to reveal such topic. That's natural. Because this was an unspeakable past of someone. Especially if it was a precious wish entrusted to him.

Even more if the said person was suffering from being unable to fulfill his promise. And yet, she speaks that everyone should share those burdens to her.

To talk about such painful things, saying that she would carry their burden as the Demon Lord of her race. How foolish.

(Really, what a naive girl)

Liliyn watched Eveam who was looking at Aquinas without batting an eyelid. She's still an inexperienced leader too young to stand as the Demon Lord.

It was natural that she should promise things within her own capability. Doing not would be synonymous to saying such irresponsible words with the title entrusted to her as the leader of this nation.

In her current state, it was impossible to carry all the burdens of the 『Evila』. When Liliyn thought that her empty words were foolish, she made a sigh, and then,

“But even I say such things, I’m still a baby far from being compared to Aquinas and Marione.”

The words Eveam spoke had a mortified tone.

“That’s why I won’t carry your burdens alone. Let me carry it together with you. To the extent that I can carry. Or so Hihiro had told me.”

(W-what did she say!?)

Liliyn reacted when she heard the influence of Hihiro from Eveam.

“Weak as I may be, please let me carry as much as I can. Although it’s true that I want to shoulder everyone’s burden, but the current me needs someone else to carry along such burdens.”

Aquinas softly placed his hands on her shoulders with an apologetic look.

“Aquinas...”

“Princess...no, Her Majesty..... You’ve grown up.”

“I still have a long way to go.”

Although it was hard to recognize from Aquinas and Marione’s expressions, but it certainly felt that they were full of smiles. They were probably happy that Eveam didn’t casually spoke such irresponsible words.

However, Liliyn was...

(Ku.... so it was Hiirō’s influence! Is he an airhead?! No, he’s definitely one! Is it because of her breast! Damnit so it was her breasts!!!!)

Liliyn glared at Eveam who had a larger breast compared to her.

“Nofofo, milady, I have a great inclination on small breasts!”

Silva made a rather unpleasant remark to her, so for the time being she returned a fist to his face. He lay on the ground with a nosebleed as he gratefully received her response.

Cruzer made a wry smile in face of that smiling Silva, and then coughed once to grab everyone’s attention.

“Everyone, if I may?”

Liliyn suppressed her irritation as she turned towards Cruz.

“Since the Predecessor Demon Lord obtained 《Cursed Sword – Sacrifice》, I believe it is necessary to set up countermeasures for the future to come. Fortunately, it is still impossible for him to

make a move, so there is still time.”

“Hm? How can you be so sure of it? If one obtained such a weapon, there is a possibility that they would immediately attack right?”

At the mention of Liliyn’s question, Cruzer shook his head to the side.

“No, there is a reason why he can’t make his move.”

“And that reason is?”

“Yes, currently he is....”

“How is the state of His Majesty, No. 05?”

It was one of Avoros’ subordinate named Hiromi who asked. His words were acknowledged and No. 05 moved to face him.

“I cannot say anything at the moment.”

With her hair as white as snow, Kiria responded with an expression devoid of emotions. No. 05 was her identification number among the several Kiria’s that exists in here. And was the former aide and close friend of Demon Lord Eveam.

Currently, in front of him was a large crystal buried under a wall as it reflected Avoros’ naked body floating within it.

There were a regular swelling of bubbles appearing within as if the crystal was filled to the brim with water. With such scene while looking at Avoros’ limp body, No. 05 spoke.

“His Majesty had resolved himself that this could happen.”

“Is that sword called 《Sacrifice》 capable of weakening His Majesty to this extent?”

“It seems so. In exchange for getting the power capable destroying everything, a considerable life force is demanded.”

“So the 《Core of the Founder Demon Lord》 would be left unobtainable if he didn’t go so far like this, huh?”

“When His Majesty had returned, almost all of his body parts where on the brink of extinction. I was not prepared that this kind of treatment would be of such necessity. His Majesty took quite a dangerous bet.”

“I really wish the other people could have done their jobs better, but no one could pull that sword from its place.”

“That sword is a part of the 《Devil》, and it only responds to those recognized by the 《Devil》. And as we can see, only His Majesty was recognized by it.”

No. 05 sent a quiet glance to Avoros.

“...is Kainabi in jail?”

“Yes, she needed to be disciplined for a bit.”

“I don’t understand what she feels about it, but as expected, turning your fangs against your own kin is a little too much.”

Indeed, the girl named Kainabi, at the moment she witnessed Avoros’ tattered body, she interrogated Isuka as to why it had happened.

Although Isuka should have accurately explained, she only

responded 'It's none of your business' to her. It was because of that that Kainabi judged it was Isuka's fault why it became so and directed a fist towards her.

Needless to say, there would be big trouble if they fought as they were, so they restrained Kainabi and threw inside the dungeon prison of the castle in order for her, the main culprit, to reflect on her mistakes.

No. 5 then told Kainabi what she heard regarding Avoros' condition, but because she couldn't suppress her anger to Isuka, she chose to cool her head for a while.

And Isuka said that she doesn't have any intention of clearing up the misunderstanding as she went off somewhere to continue the task she was supposed to do.

"Really, what selfish fellows they are."

Hiromi released a deep sigh with amazement mix within. And just like No. 05, he turned his glance quietly towards Avoros' unmoving body.

"...when will His Majesty wake up?"

"I do not know. However, there is one order I received from His Majesty."

"What is it?"

"...At the time of his awakening, he would..."

No. 05's eyes glowed suspiciously, and her thin lips trembled.

".....start the war against the world."

Hiromi's eyes narrowed in response.

"I see, then you should prepare for his awakening then."

"Leave it to me."

"Also if possible, assist in His Majesty's awakening so that it would quicken even by a day."

"That was my intention."

Hiromi glanced at Avoros one more time before he left the place.

Chapter 268 – Is Liliyn a little girl?

In the conference room where an immediate discussion was being held at the request of Demon Lord Eveam, Liliyn and her company talked about the 《Core of the Founder Demon Lord》 and how it had become, but in the middle of that they were talking about Predecessor Demon Lord Avoros, and right now, their current topic was about the imminent attack towards their nation.

However, according to Cruzer, the fact that Avoros couldn't make a move for the meantime due to the side effect of using 《Sacrifice》, everyone felt relieved especially Eveam.

That said, this news was only a temporary stopper as it extends the imminent war ahead. Even if they were graced with the postponement of it, they still need to set countermeasures against Avoros within that time frame.

And yet as if Liliyn lost interest to their current topic, she spoke with a tired face.

“With this, we have passed on what we know. Silva, Cruzer, let's return to our room.”

At the moment Liliyn stood up from her seat and tried to leave the place,

“P-please wait a moment Liliyn-dono!”

The panicked voice of Eveam called out to Liliyn.

“What?”

“Ah, you see, I would like to express our gratitude for providing the information. But, if possible, will.....will you lend us your strength?”

“.....”

“We are very aware that Hihiro and Liliyn-dono’s company are esteemed guests of ours. Especially to Hihiro who had done so much that even my heartfelt gratitude isn’t enough to repay it back. However right now, increasing our war potential is necessary for us.

“.....”

“Of course, I know that I’m asking something outrageous. It’s like I’m asking you to lay down your life for the sake of the country. Even if you are an 『Evila』, you haven’t even lived in this country and surely you have other things you want to do.”

“...and yet you try to restrain us even when knowing this?”

“I’m truly sorry! I have decided that I won’t shoulder the burden of protecting this country by myself! I know that I’m weak! That’s why I’m seeking help from other people! I know it’s shameful of me, but this is the extent of what I can do right now!”

Liliyn stared at Eveam who spoke with a mortified tone.

(This girl... I heard that she was a stubborn idealist, speaking of impossible things with naive ideals.)

But it seems there was slight discrepancy based on the rumor she had heard.

“....so I beg of you! Will you lend your strength for the country! Please!”

“.....Your Majesty, don't you think it's too hasty to bow your head so easily?”

Liliyn tried to see what kind of reaction she would give by giving her a cold look.

“If you are going to benefit the country and the people even a little, I would lower my head much more! You may even treat my life like a garbage!”

Even Liliyn unconsciously widened her eyes in face of Eveam's ridiculous speech while still bowing in front of her.

“...whatever the circumstances may be, that was too exaggerated.”

“Eh?”

“When you lower your head, at least look at them.”

“Eh, a...”

“Besides, even though there is someone who adores you, stop treating your life like a trash. I understand that your self-sacrifice comes from your past experiences, but there is a significant meaning why you are living right here and now. If there is something you want to do, cling to it as if you desire it. Remember that young girl.”

Eveam hardened at Liliyn's unexpected sermon to her.

“Although I've ignored it a lot of times, Her Majesty is a young girl you say? Then look at yourself in a mirror! You sound like you were preaching her but you are behaving like one too, ‘young girl’!”

“What did you... just say?”

In face of Marione's complaint, a vein appeared on Liliyn's forehead.

“M-marione! That's rude! Liliyn-dono is our guest!”

“I beg to disagree Your Majesty! Even though they are the companions of that youngster, they are too impolite! Besides it was Cruzer Jio who offered the information, not this young girl!”

The veins on Liliyn's forehead stemmed out further as her anger rose. Cruzer seemed to be confused on how to quell this matter. And Silva quietly stared at Liliyn with a cramp on his cheeks.

“Marione! You are being impolite to Liliyn-dono! It's natural that I should bow here for such a request! I also understand that there is no mistake in the words she said! W-well, I was surprised when I was called a ‘young girl’ by Liliyn-dono, but that's not the main point!”

“You hear that! Even Her Majesty think you're a young girl! Rather, isn't better to call you a ‘little girl’ instead!”

“Marione! Calling someone a ‘little girl’ is way too rude! Although Liliyn-dono's outward appearance is apparently that of

a little girl, she's an 『Evila』, so her little girl appearance is not necessarily her true age!”

“But you see Your Majesty! Even if she had lived a long life, her appearance is still that of a ‘little girl’! In other words, this young girl is without a doubt a ‘little girl’! ”

“E-even so, even if she's a little girl, you should choose your words more wisely!”

“You are mistaken Your Majesty! Only the words on the same level of a little girl would work on a little girl! Because she's definitely a little girl!”

There was prickling noise as Liliyn's crimson hair began to shake like a flame. Seeing that the situation was getting bad, Silva spoke,

“M-milady! I believe Marione-dono was mistaken with his remarks! He said that Milady isn't just an ordinary ‘little girl’! He meant that you're a Super ‘little girl’! No, it's not an exaggeration to say that you're a Miracle ‘little girl’ —gyohon!”

A right uppercut suddenly hit Silva's jaw. His head pierced the ceiling as it is..... as a passage of time passed.

“Little girl this! Little girl that!.....”

“I-iseverything alright, Liliyn-dono?”

Although Eveam called out to Liliyn, she was frightened by her strange mood.

“Fufu, fufufufufufu....”

Liliyn headed towards Marione with large footsteps. And when she stopped a little distance from him, she quickly raised her slightly trembling face with much vigour.

“Is this the face of a little girl, hm~!”

In face of that expression, everyone quietly suppressed a giggle. Although she was angry, her face was flushed and her eyes were teary.

However, the astonished Eveam who saw such appearance, spoke an unexpected word.

“.....kawaii” (TL: Cute)

Eveam unconsciously muttered such a word in face of the little girl’s desperate attempts to rebuke Marione’s words. But this only stimulated Liliyn’s anger again.

“Uuuu~”

“L-Liliyn-san...?”

Although Cruzer who had been silent until now called out to the groaning-like beast, Liliyn, she suddenly,

“I-I hate you aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaall!”

Liliyn ran towards the door and came to a halt, then she pointed a finger to Eveam.

“I won’t forget thisssssssssssssss!”

She went out of the room after saying that much.

After the crying Liliyn left, those who were left behind did not

move as if time had frozen. The gap from Liliyn's change may have shocked them this much.

In such a circumstance, everyone's eyes shifted towards Aquinas who was laughing with 'kukuku' sound.

"W-what's wrong Aquinas?"

When Eveam asked, Aquinas returned a smile and,

"I just thought that aspect of her hasn't changed one bit."

Looking at Aquinas' nostalgic look towards the door where Liliyn went out, Eveam tilted her head.

"Nofofofo! I was able to witness such an adorable Milady after a long time! Today is quite a nice day! Nofofofofo!"

"S-silva-dono! Since when were you here!?"

Eveam was surprised because Silva was supposed to be dangling at the ceiling moments before, but now he was alive and well.

"D-don't you have any injury?"

"Nofofofo! There is no such thing! That's because I'm a butler! Nofofofofo!"

Eveam was relieved because he certainly didn't have when she looked at him.

"...haa, it seems I have offended Liliyn-dono, I should apologize later."

"Nofofofofo! Please do not worry about it. I will tell Milady

later about it, and if you absolutely want to say something to her, please do bring a good ale for us to drink. If possible, wine would be better. Because her mood recovers at once if she drinks such parcel.”

“I-is that so, I understand!”

“Actually, rather than being worried for Milady, I think we should do something about Marione-dono’s condition.”

“Eh?”

At Silva’s suggestion, Eveam realized that Marione had been quiet for quite awhile and looked towards the said person... there she saw the pale face of his former moustache baron general.

“M-Marione....?”

Standing up straight with hollow eyes, greasy sweat oozes from his forehead. And then,

“Please stoooooooooooooooooop!”

Marione struck his head against the wall.

“Eeeeeeh!?”

Eveam instinctively raised her voice when she witnessed Marione’s eccentric behavior.

“I don’t want that! I don’t want my treasured beard to be shaved! Please stoooooooooooooooooop! Uwa! That was close! Too close! When you whirl a sword in such a direction..... moreover on my right side! I beg of you! Please stoooooooooooooooooop!”

“..Marione....ouch, that’s gotta hurt...”

“He seems to be in trance of that guy’s magic.”

It was Aquinas who responded with a meaningful answer.

“That guy? You mean Liliyn-dono’s magic?”

“Yeah, that guy can put her opponent into delusion by instilling illusions in their mind. Perhaps Marione is being subjected to a nightmare where his beloved beard is being cut.”

“I-it resembles the magic of the Founder Demon Lord we were talking about awhile ago....”

“.....well, yeah.”

Aquinas responded with a slight delay after Eveam’s words. Eveam did not seem to wonder why Aquinas replied in such a way.

“W-will he return back to normal?”

“...well, he wouldn’t die from this, I’m sure if we leave him alone for a while he’ll come back soon.”

“...t-this country’s proudest 《Rank 2 of Cruel Brigade》 was easily led by the nose.....Liliyn-dono is amazing.”

“Well, she had lived longer than Marione, so it’s natural.”

“Mu? I-I should properly apologize to her later.”

Watching the miserable appearance of Marione, Eveam warned herself not to anger Liliyn anymore, and told Silva that she would prepare the finest wine for her.

Chapter 269 – Before the Separation

One week has passed after Liliyn had run away from the conference room of the Demon Lord's castle with teary eyes. As for Hiiro, he had been at the 【Beast Kingdom – Pasion】 within that week.

“What did you say? You're leaving?”

At the 《Throne Room》, where Hiiro's party were lined up before the Beast King, Leowald, and the Queen, Blantha, Hiiro had reported a certain matter.

The fact about their departure from this place eventually. According to Hiiro, he was able to fully enjoy at his stay in the country, but there was no more need to stay because he had roughly gotten all the information he wanted.

However, Leowald didn't seem pleased to hear his departure report and asked Hiiro to reconsider.

“Yeah, I was able fulfill my objective this time around.”

“...how about you stay here for a little longer?”

“That's right Hiiro-san, Mimiru was very pleased with your stay in here. Moreover, although I haven't said this anyone, Kuklia seems more graceful than before.”

“Oh! As expected of the man I admitted! So you've finally got the better of Kuklia! I guess she wanted to be seen more often by the man she fell in love with! Gahaha!”

“I agree, she seems more womanly than usual.”

As those two were selfishly proceeding such talks,

“W-what in the world are you talking about!”

The sudden appearance of a blushing Kuklia appeared on the spot. And then she went in front of the two as she passed Hihiro from his side.

“P-Papa and Mama, please don’t proceed such embarrassing talks! I-i-i-i-i-it’s not like I’m in love or anything!”

“Why are you panicking so much.”

“I agree, it’s a bit improper.”

Although they were both correcting her conduct, they were obviously grinning. It’s quite easy to tell that they were amused by their daughter’s reaction.

“Uu~”

Kuklia groaned like a beast and directed her suppressed anger towards Barid standing on the side.

“Barid! Aren’t you the close aide of the King? Why haven’t you rebuked the remarks of him!”

“Me?!”

He didn’t expect for him to be involved in such matters as he darted his eyes about in confusion. And then Kuklia’s gaze slowly faced Hihiro.

“.....tru...”

“Hah?”

“I...it isn't true!”

“...what are you talking about?”

“L-like I said!”

Kuklia moved her body in order to face Hiiro directly.

“W-what Mama and Papa said a while ago, it isn't true!”

To deny her parent's statement to the point of blushing from embarrassment, Hiiro judged that it would be unpleasant if this misunderstanding continued.

“Don't worry.”

“...eh?”

“Whether you were mischievous or not, it's just something trivial to me.”

“Is.....is that...so.”

Her cheeks that had been dyed red had returned to its original color while her eyes were slightly looking down in disappointment.

“Achaa~”

Behind them, Leowald and Blantha placed a hand to their temple as they each held their impression about the scene they started.

Hiiro however, though he was aware that he may have said it improperly, he couldn't understand why did they all gave such a

reaction to his. He only said what was honestly on his mind.

“Come on now Hiiro, at least, just a bit, try to understand a woman’s heart”

Tenn who was at Hiiro’s shoulder shook his head to the side as he murmured ‘good grief’

“A woman’s heart? Of course I won’t be able to understand, I’m a man after all.”

“....haa, although that may be true, but still, good grief.”

Hiiro felt irritated as Tenn threw out a terribly long sigh.

“Why don’t you tell it to me clearly if you have something to say?”

“If I could say it, I wouldn’t be having a hard time like this.”

“Then, be silent. Besides, look at Nitouryuu. That guy will also never understand it you know. Because that guy is a man.”

At Hiiro’s urgence, Camus who came near Hiiro cutely inclined his neck.

“Un...I’m a guy. Always together...with Hiiro.”

Camus proudly said so. And then Hiiro was ‘See that?’. In face of those two, Tenn could only make a heavy sigh.

“A-anyway, like I asked before, are you really planning to go already?”

“Yup.”

“Mu, I see. If possible, I would have love to have a rematch with

you in your spare time.”

Hiiro wanted pardon himself from that. He fought before because he had a reason to do so. However, he would like to refuse if the fight was simply to pass time.

He wasn't a battle frenzy maniac, and even if it's just a simple fight, fighting against the Beast King is quite troublesome. So in face of someone who speaks of such desires as if it was natural, no thank you.

“Besides, weren't you challenged by Lenon quite a lot?”

Lenon was the second prince of the country. His motivation to fight resembled Leowald's. As expected of the parent and child. He was a person that once you've fought and beat him, he would persistently ask for a rematch as many times as he want. But Hiiro did not have the time to do such things. So, no.

Every time Lenon asked for a match, the first prince Leglos would scold his brother for his rudeness. Hiiro felt a bit of sympathy towards the elder brother. Lenon was simply too persistent.

“Then how about an exhibition match that would serve as a motivation for the soldiers of this nation?”

“I refuse.”

“Gahaha! I thought so!”

He seemed to have expected that his offer was going to be refused. Besides him, a calm voice murmured ‘Dear, really now.’

“But well, since you have that magic capable of traveling here instantly, I believe this separation wouldn’t be the last. If you miss Mimiru and Kuklia, feel free to come by and visit them again.”

“W-wait, why am I include—!?”

Though Kuklia was getting worked up in refusing her father’s statement,

“Ah, before you leave, do tell Mimiru and the others of your departure.”

“Yeah, I intend to do that.”

Hiiro didn’t want another ‘you left again without saying anything from us!’ —yelling from Arnold.

“But I have a feeling we’ll be seeing again real soon.”

The mood Leowald changed as his eyes narrowed sharply. Hiiro meant about the organization created by the Predecessor Demon Lord, 《Matar Deus》. Since the last news about them, they haven’t anything after, although they were sure some movements was moving behind their backs.

“...by the way, Beast King.”

“Yeah?”

“Please do consider about the 【Paradise】 I offered, alright?”

“Gahaha! Oh yeah, let’s discuss this matter with everyone! I really want to meet this master of yours who founded this idea.”

“Don’t get the wrong idea. That guy isn’t my master. I just only

suggested this matter by my own accord.”

Of course, he meant about Red Loli, Liliyn.

“...so this person wasn’t your master, huh?”

“You’re too persistent. It’s just that my purpose aligns with that person’s. Simply put, you could say I would like to see her dream come true with my own eyes.”

“Hoh, so you have fallen for this person, huh?”

Leowald’s eyes were sparkling with a definite shine, even Kuklia who was looking at him had this discerning disposition in her stare.

“Don’t be foolish. I’m normal.”

“Eh? Normal...?”

As if he didn’t understand Hiiro’s statement, Leowald inclined his neck in confusion. For Hiiro, Liliyn is a little girl, and he doesn’t have inclination or lustful urge for that said person.

“No way, as if you’re normal...if I have to name it, it would be colorless. Yeah, colorless!”

Though Tenn spoke lightly, Hiiro heard his words completely. He grabbed his neck and threw him behind. However, Tenn rotated his body and made a perfectly timed landing.

“W-why did you throw me all of a sudden Hiiro!”

“Shut up, Yellow Monkey. As if we could understand those ‘colorless, colorless’ you were talking about.”

“Ke! If you’re normal, then at least show some in front of a woman! You blasted colorless bastard!”

“...hou, apparently instead of Yellow Monkey, you’d like to be grilled Monkey, huh? You blabbermouth Monkey.”

“Hmpf! If you can do it, try me you insensible thickheaded man!”

As the two of them glared each other as if sparks were scattering overhead them, they heard the beating of hands and shifted their attention to it.

“Alright, stop! If you guys intend to start a battle in here, I would like you to pardon this place seriously.”

What Leowald said was natural. If the two had a serious bout with each other, the 《Throne Room》 would surely collapse. Those two people had the ability to evoke such effect.

“...huh, it seems you narrowly escaped your demise, Ape.”

“I return those words similarly, you quick tempered impatient human.”

In face of such childish banter between two like minded people, everyone who was present loosened their cheeks. Although it may look unbelievable, but this was the person who fought and beat the Beast King in a duel and brought victory to the 『Evila』.

Before Hiroy left the room, he told Leowald that he’d bring Liliyn and her company one day to talk in detail regarding the 【Paradise】 he talked about before.

For now, his next destination was the garden. It seems there were a lot of people who was present there.

When he arrived at the place, he saw Mimiru and Muir harvesting the crops while enjoying with bright smiles on their faces. In the vicinity of those two, he also saw Arnold and his elder sister around.

And the moment he approached them....

“Hirooooooooooooooooooooo!”

A familiar voice and footsteps rang in the surrounding ground he stood. As usual, he wrote the character 『**Exchange** | 交換』 instinctively but realized Barid, his meat shield wasn't present on the spot.

He thought of using Arnold instead, but his distance from him was too far. Due to the lack of preparation, Hihiro was ultimately defeated by the situation.. ...

“Unyaaaaaaaa~!”

From behind, he felt a heavy hug, but was somehow able to endure it by putting strength on his feet. And after a lot of trials, Crouch, the Cat girl was able to relish the feeling of a successful hug on the back of Hihiro.

“Hihirooo~, Hihirooo~ Nyaaaaaaaa~”

“....release me, Cat girl.”

Though Hihiro complained depressedly,

“Ny-o way!”

She responded so. Helpless in his situation, Hihiro leaked a sigh as Muir and the others noticed and came towards him.

“Really now, Crouch-san! Please separate from Hihiro-sama!”

The second princess Mimiru sweetly reprimanded Crouch. Muir, by her side also puffed her cheeks.

“Hehe, go on, continue what you guys are doing, I insist! I don’t mind anyone as long as it isn’t Muir.....hiiii!”

Apparently, there doesn’t seem to be a learning function on Arnold.

“Oji-san? Could you repeat that again....hm?”

It’s as if a hellfire was breaking out behind him. Arnold who was deathly pale said,

“C-crouch-sama! Please stop what you are doing! At least do that when the two of you are alone together!”

“Nya! Is that so-nya? Just two of us you say? Hihiro~ let’s go to my room nya! We’ll do a lot of fun things over there nya~!”

Although it was Crouch who was expressing such a delighted smile on her face, behind Arnold however appeared...

“....Oji-san?”

“....Arnold-san?”

The two angels have transformed into demon mode at last. So Arnold who was oblivious to the dangers of his own foolishness,

“...haha... I guess this is goodbye...”

He spoke such words while laughing before his imminent demise.

Chapter 270 – Hihiro's Return to Xaous

While the pale Arnold was being preached by two little girls, Crouch was still rubbing her face on Hihiro's back. It's as if she was delighted by his own scent.

At times like this, Putis, one of the 《Gabranth Tthree》 would usually come and get Crouch without questions asked. However, this time, that person didn't come even if Hihiro waited forever.

As he was worrying about what happened, as if Crouch heard his thoughts, she raised her face to Hihiro while her ears twitched cutely.

“Nyafufu~, were you perhaps waiting for Putis-nya?”

“....who knows.”

“Even if you wait for her, she won't come-nya~”

If Hihiro responded to a person who had a delighted face like that, it would only bring more pleasure to that person, so Hihiro simply listened while making his usual poker face.

“Nyafufufu~..... That's because while Putis was sleeping I scribbled a lot of things on her animal-character cosutme!”

“.....ha?”

“About this time, Putis must be desperately trying to remove the graffitis. Although I feel bad for her, that's revenge for depriving most of the opportunities I could had with Hihiro-nya~!”

Apparently, she's smarter than what her idiotic looks give. Well,

she's still a childish pitiful character though.

“Oh, that's right-nya!”

“Hm?”

“Hihiro, please call me Syrup from now on nya.”

“.....ha?”

“Crouch is my alias in the army which Leowald had named me so nya. Syrup is actually my real name nya.”

According to what Hihiro heard, this ‘Syrup’ was too cute when she entered the army. The enemy wouldn't take her seriously and her ally soldiers would underestimate her even though she was a strong ally. When she consulted this to the Beast King, he recommended changing her appearance through the use of 《Binding》.

Of course, Leowald proposed this knowing the special characteristics of her 《Binding》. Her 《Dark Binding》 can materialize her own shadow and wear it.

And the appearance of the black panther was born. Moreover, once her shadow was worn, her offensive and defensive power is raised.

And because of such appearance, and also through Leowald's introduction, she had been called Crouch. Those who knew her true identity as a little girl called her with her real name, but according to her, those person are few to be counted. So in order to maintain the pride and respect towards her, she kept using the name Crouch for a long time.

With the exception of her seniors, Crouch hadn't revealed her true name those who did not know of it. Because she had been used to being called Crouch, it somehow felt embarrassing to be called by her real name anymore. So she only reveals her true name to people she was pleased with.

And the way she said it to him was plain evidence that she was pleased with him. Hihiro did not why he was liked, for the time being he must deal first with their current appearance.

"I see, then release me Cat girl."

"Uuu~ I told you to call me Syrup nya~!"

Syrup's cheeks inflated as she roughly rubbed the top of her head on Hihiro's back. It seriously hurts.

"Crouch-san! How long are you going to embrace Hihiro-sama!"

When the sermon ended, Hihiro glanced at Mimiru's direction. There he found a crippled Arnold reflected behind the two little girls.

(Because you've fought once for the sake of a country, doesn't mean you know the ways of the world already)

Although Arnold was struggling for his growth for the first time in battle, now Hihiro couldn't the trace of that courageous person from before.

"Crouch-san!"

"I don't wanna nya!"

"Crouch-san!"

“I DON’T WANNA NYA!”

Because Syrup keeps rubbing her head, the pain was accumulating quite a lot. Hiiro tried to prepare his magic to escape from this predicament when....

“....found you.”

A chilling voice resounded from the spot. Then for some reason Hiiro’s body trembled...no, it wasn’t his body that trembled. The cause was the white cat that was clinging at his back.

In that spot he found Putis wearing her pretty animal costume character. However, there is also a sense of intimidation from the charm of Putis appearance, it felt like the two guardian Deva kings. Here and there, he could see wrinkled portions on her costume that was probably the effect of removing Syrup’s graffitis.

And for some reason, if Hiiro wasn’t hallucinating, there was a black aura gushing out from her...

“....Kuro?”

Again, a chilling voice that seems to tell directly to the brain. Hiiro clearly understood the intention of the anger that was mixed in as soon as he heard it.

(She’s definitely angry... well, anyone would be if they scribbled on the clothes they always wear.)

Behind Hiiro, he could feel Crouch, or rather Syrup shaking. She should be aware of Putis’ existence behind her. But rather than looking, she buried her face on his back while trembling from

fear.

It's as if she was a young girl trying to sleep by wearing the futon over her head while saying 'I don't want to see scary things' repeatedly

However, the existence that fuels her fear steadily approached her step by step. Then the moment Syrup couldn't bear the sound of the approaching footsteps, she instantly left Hihiro's back and started running away from the place. But,

"N-nya?!"

"...where...do you think you're going?"

Putis caught up with her in an instant and blocked her path.

(Hou, she's fast)

In face of that speed, Hihiro felt impressed by how fast she came towards Syrup. Another factor that fueled Syrup's unshakable fear of her.

"H-help me nya! Hiir—!?"

Syrup instantly retreated her steps and tried to come towards Hihiro's location, but before she could do so, her tail was caught by Putis.

"....you need to be punished."

Putis put power in the hands grasping Syrup's tail.

"Unyaaaaaaaaaaaaa!?"

It apparently seems that Syrup's tail was her weakness as she

fell to ground. She raised her face as she pleaded with teary eyes to Hiiro. Although Hiiro understood that she wanted help, the one who saved him was Putis, so he'll lend his assistance to Putis alone.

“Unyaaaaa~ Hiiroooooooo~”

Syrup looked like a pitiful lamb as she was dragged by tail as it is. Hiiro did not know what kind of punishment awaits for her hereafter, but at the very least, may she have a safe trip.

Mimiru and Muir who witnessed everything from the beginning to the end were both wearing dumbfounded expressions. Hiiro sighed in relief when Syrup finally left the place. Then the girls faced Hiiro's direction and said,

“It's unusual for Hiiro-san to come with this timing, do you need something from the garden?”

Muir politely inquired Hiiro.

“Yeah, I have some business with you two and also that crippled old man over there.”

“I see. How can we be of assistance then?”

“Well, you see I'm returning to 【Evila】 after this.”

“ “ Eeh!? ” “

At the same time, both Mimiru and Muir raised their voice in surprise.

“Oy, is that true?”

Arnold seemed to have resurrected and inquired as well.

“Unfortunately, yeah. I haven’t conquered that ‘library’ yet.”

For Hiiro, Muir knew that books are indispensable for him. So she didn’t say anything and only looked down from her spot.

“Oh, so you are going home already? It will be a little lonely here.”

Among them, only Raive, Arnold’s elder sister, responded with a refreshing feeling to it.

“A-are....you really returning back, Hiiro-sama?”

Mimiru squints her eyes sadly as she spoke with a trembling tone. It seems Muir who was besides her also felt the same. When Hiiro saw such faces, he recalled his time in the child-care facility.

Children who are being cared by foster carers have always showed this kind of face. Especially the children’s attitudes whom Hiiro had taken care of. There are some who weeped wanting them to be taken along by him.

However, at that time and even now, Hiiro had always done the same things for them.

Flick *Flick*

Upon lightly flicking the forehead of those two,

“Let’s meet again.”

When they raised their hands to their foreheads almost at the same time, their cheeks dyed from embarrassment.

“....not fair”

“... I agree.”

Contrary to their spoken words, their cheeks were softly smiling. Raive who saw the two's expression was quite pleased while Arnold was grinding his teeth, mortified.

“Now then, old man.”

“W-what do you want!”

“...why the heck are you crying?”

“L-like hell I am! Geez, just continue what you wanted to say before!”

Strangely, Arnold was shedding tears for some reason. Raive who saw such an appearance dropped her shoulders in disappointment and murmured, ‘Why can’t this child be honest for once...’

“Try not to die until we meet again.”

“Don’t casually leave such ominous remarks!”

“Well, I heard that hentai characters have a long life compared to the usual, so I think you’ll be just fine.”

“Where the heck did you hear that! As if that’s true!”

Taking a glance at Camus and Tenn similarly making their farewell, Hiroyuki approached Arnold and quietly whispered to him.

“Protect Chibi and Blue Ribbons”

“...ha?”

Arnold had a face as if he wanted an explanation for that.

“What’s wrong?”

“...I also told the same thing to the Beast King, I heard that the Predecessor Demon Lord is collecting unique individuals in his possessions.”

“Y-yeah.”

“I’m sure you know right? Chibi’s race.”

“.....!?”

Arnold’s face stiffens upon hearing Hiirō’s words.

“Oy, are you saying he is targeting Muir?”

“Who knows, but it’s a possibility.”

“...but why include Mimiru-sama?”

“That guy has a special ability.”

“A special ability?”

“Yeah, the Predecessor Demon Lord would likely target her also if he knew her ability.”

“...so that’s why you wanted me to protect them?”

“Yup.”

The two of them silently matched their eyes for awhile. Then Arnold lightly made a sigh and said,

“Then why don’t you stay here and protect them?”

True. Arnold has a point with his words, but,

“I said before right? There are things I still have to do.”

“... in any case, it would be books right?”

“If you know, then don’t ask twice.”

Of course, not just books, he wanted to train on his 《Grand Red Aura》

“...haa, but at least, Leowald-sama knows of this too, right?”

“Yeah.”

“Then it’ll be fine. The country itself will protect these children. And Muir is **my** daughter!”

His eyes burned with a strong belief that says he would protect them at all cost.

“Nice answer. Besides I made an insurance if anything bad happens.”

“N? What insurance?”

“It’s nothing. I just thought that you’re still sultry as ever.”

“What did you just say you brat!”

Although Arnold closed on him with a fierce look, it was pointless as Hiroyuki hurriedly retreated from his spot.

“Anyway, keep that in mind and take care.”

“Leave it to me. Or perhaps I should say that if you’re worried about those two.... Ah!? Oy, are you perhaps i-i-i-i-i-i-inlo....”

“Be relieved. I am not.”

“I-I see”

He placed a hand on his chest as he made a sigh of relief.

“Then what is it? You’re awfully strange for paying attention to the needs of another person.”

“....I don’t know really.”

Hiiro glanced towards Muir and Mimiru happily chatting with the others. And then, he looked up into the sky slowly. That star isn’t present since it wasn’t night time.

“....probably just a whim of mine.”

“Just a whim huh?”

“I just don’t like having that conceited Template Maou do as he pleases”

“Haa, let’s just leave it at that then.”

Without change, Hiiro turned his back on Arnold and went towards Tenn and Camus.

“Ah, aren’t you going to meet master?”

“About that, I visited her beforehand. Told her I was indebted to her for the week I had been in here.”

The method to control his body power in order to use the 《Grand Red Aura》 was taught by Rarashik. Because she had taught him all the basics, he only needed to train intensively for it hereafter.

“I see. Then, don’t die either man.”

“Waste of words. I won’t die.”

While saying that, Hihiro wrote the character 『Transfer』 and called out to Camus and Tenn. Hihiro had stayed a little longer than he planned but, he was satisfied by his stay as he gained a lot of things that benefited him.

While thinking of coming back to a feast prepared by Raive, the three people returned to 【Xaous】

Chapter 271 – Unforseen Accident?

When Hiiro's party came back to 【Xaous】, he returned their appearance to their original forms: He in 『Humas』, while Camus in his 『Asura Clan』 look. Camus seemed to have liked his 『Gabranth』 appearance as he felt a little disappointed, but Hiiro would be troubled for explanations if they returned as they were.

On the day Camus saved Hiiro from the duel before, he had explained to Muir and Leowald that Camus was an 『Evila』. However, upon their arrival at 【Pasion】, they were held back by a lot of questioning but eventually acknowledged Camus' form and said that it isn't necessary to become a 『Gabranth』 again as it only makes the matter troublesome.

The place they arrived was the inside of the Demon Lord's castle. Camus said he wanted to buy the 《Fluffy Bread》 he had tasted before from the shop located nearby the castle. Apparently, he liked it quite a bit.

Hiiro thought that it was necessary to report their homecoming to Demon Lord Eveam first, so he handed money to Camus enough to buy the 《Fluffy Bread》 he wanted.

Tenn wanted to eat it as well, so he jumped on Camus' shoulder as they both faced the shop together.

(Now then, time to meet Maou once again)

But Hiiro thought it would be troublesome if he looked for Eveam inside the castle. That's why,

『Transfer』 & 『Maou』

Using Parallel Writing, he wrote two set of characters using both of his hands at the same time. With this, he'd be able to immediately go to where Eveam is.

pishun!

Hiiro's form disappeared from the place.

Upon arrival through the desired location, Hiiro wore a rather strange look.

(What's with this room...hot and... steam?)

Indeed, it was obviously different compared to the room temperature outside as it generated enough steam that covered the whole area. It's as if the place was covered in fog.

His eyeglasses became blurry so he decided to remove it and looked through the surroundings to see where exactly he was.

Then, the dripping sound of footsteps reached his ears. When he noticed it came from his rear, he turned his body around and saw....

“.....eh?”

It wasn't Hiiro who spoke. And then, Hiiro understood everything. He should punish himself for not noticing earlier. Because in his presence was.....

..... the appearance of Eveam who wasn't wearing anything.

Unintentionally, Hiiro became speechless as his body stiffened. Although he realized where he was, he was dumbfounded by the situation as if he had lost his ability to think.

It seems Eveam was the same. She looked at Hiiro with wide eyes as if she was seeing an illusion.

“Hiiro?....why.....why are you here?”

Hiiro opened his mouth like a pathetic old guy, but he dealt with the most important part first.

“....f-for now, you should cover yourself first.”

Hiiro diverts his gaze from her while he made an embarrassed face. At the realization of Hiiro’s words, Eveam remembered what she was doing in the morning.

“Eh?.....K-KYAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!”

Unfortunately, this was the large bathroom used exclusively by the Demon Lord.

Naturally, the maids who heard Eveam’s scream plunged towards the room thinking what may have happened. Thinking that his situation may get worse if he stayed here for another second, Hiiro immediately wrote the character 『Transfer』 and activated it.

“Uwa!? Don’t just appear so suddenly Hiiro!”

Hiiro arrived at the guest room personally lent to him inside the castle. Besides him was a startled Liliyn who was shocked from Hiiro’s appearance.

“It’s Shishou! Also how cold of you! To leave without taking me along~!”

“Mu~ Mikazuki as well, I wanted to go to the beastmen~”

Nikki, his stupid disciple, and Mikazuki, his personified pet girl were both puffing their cheeks.

“Nofofofofo! Welcome back Hiiro-sama”

“W-we are glad for your safe return!”

Silva, the hentai butler, and Shamoe, the clumsy maid hadn’t changed a bit.

“Long time no see, Hiiro-san.....oya? Do you feel unwell today?”

Wondering why Hiiro’s complexion was strange, Cruzer, a new companion he befriended recently came towards him.

“Mu? Now that you mention it, you’re face seems...red? Did you perhaps catch some cold?”

It appears that Liliyn and the others misunderstood his physical condition as the current Hiiro differed from his usual poker face.

(...fuu, as expected even I would get self-conscious about it)

Hiiro’s mind was jumbled like a mess. Although he tried not let his emotion show on his face, but deep inside he was still in turmoil about it.

To be honest, it was Hiiro’s first time seeing a naked woman. Because of the steam, he removed his glasses as he couldn’t see much clearly, but Hiiro was certain that it was Eveam’s well-proportioned figure he saw back then.

He couldn't just say what he had experienced at the bathroom, so he was desperately trying to calm his heart right now.

“Oi, are you really alright Hiiro?”

Everyone was now looking at Hiiro who hasn't responded yet with worried eyes.

“....I'm alright”

“Really? did something happen at 【Pasion】?”

“Nofofofo! As expected of Milady! To be very anxious about Hiiro-sama's matters....is this perhaps love bound by jealousy and worry?”

“I-i-i-i-i-i-it's not love you fool!”

Liliyn's expression dyed immediately upon hearing Silva's words.

“I-I'm just worried about the condition of my subordinate, s-since I have a duty as the leader!”

“Nofofofo! Calm down Milady.....it was splendid. Nofofo!”

“Shut up you pervert!”

“Gafun!?”

Liliyn delivered a straight punch to Silva's stomach as the latter dropped against the floor. However, because of this favor, he was able to avert the topic.

(Did he perhaps aimed for this...? Nah, as if that's true...)

It seems Silva sensed Hiiro's reluctance to the topic and

decided to change it, but Hiiro didn't want to believe it based on Silva's usual behavior. Hiiro felt sorry for him, but he thought it was good luck it happened.

However, when he heard stomping footsteps approaching his location, he somehow had a bad feeling about it.

And then....

“You brat! Is it true that you have peeked when Her Majesty was taking a bath?!”

Moustache Baron, Marione stormed towards their room, and entered to the point of almost breaking the door.

(...haa, what an unlucky day)

Although Hiiro thought he could hide this hurriedly, as expected even he couldn't say anything if it was said like this in the open.

(Wait, I could use the character 『**Memory Lapse** | 忘却』 to all the people in here...)

Then, just for an instance he looked at Nikki.

(But, this guy is foolish so it isn't a problem, so is that drooling bird as well)

Since Nikki and Mikazuki doesn't seem to understand the matter, he could deceive them. He judged that isn't that worth it to use his magic on them.

(And that clumsy maid...)

At the moment he met eyes with Shamoe, she was 'Fueeeeee!'

while adding 'so daring!' with a flushed red face, but even if she misunderstood there's no harm done.

(As for Jii-san, my magic won't be effective on him...)

Since he is a high ranking 『Spirit』 surely he must possess also an 《Anti-Magic Element》. As a result, magic effects would be nullified against him. But even if he knew about it, he would surely just go 'how envious!', so there's no problem with that guy as well. If there would be one, that would be.....

“.....Hiiro..... Peeked at someone... inside the bath.....what the?”

Indeed, it would be the Red-haired Loli.

Chapter 272 – As Expected of Hiiro

Due to the abrupt appearance of Marione, it was revealed that Hiiro had peeped on Eveam while she was taking her bath.

Naturally, Hiiro didn't intend to encounter such a scene on purpose, but it was also a topic he couldn't tell the others at the moment. So when he came in here, Hiiro simply ignored the worried intentions of his companions.

However, his deceit to hide it was in vain due to Marione's entry. And the one who was bothered the most about it was Liliyn.

Obviously, she was quite ill-humored. Hiiro didn't understand why she'd suddenly change her attitude like that.

"Now then, you are going to tell me exactly what happened right?"

Even Marione who tried to inquire about the matter was taken by Liliyn a step ahead.

"...even if you ask me...that was just an accident, you know?"

"Hoh, so it was an accident you saw her naked?"

"That's..."

"H-how far did you see?"

"Hah?"

"I'm asking how far did you see, idiot!"

“...why do I have to answer that to you?”

If it was Eveam, he would honestly answer that question. Because he was the one who made the mistake, so answering the question could serve as a means of his apology.

However, he didn't have any obligation to say these to Liliyn. Hihiro frowned at such thought.

“Just answer it!”

“I refuse. It's none of your business.”

“Wha!? Uuuu~”

Liliyn groaned at her loss in their argument as she held her hands into tight fists.

“You pervert! Don't make that obvious face as if you're pretending to be uninterested in these matters!”

Hihiro did not know what to respond as he looked at her speechless at Liliyn who was shouting while pointing a finger at him.

“Ehem”, then, Hihiro heard a coughing sound, shifted his attention and saw Marione seizing the opportunity to intervene them.

“For the time being, even if you are the benefactor of our country, it seems certain that you have peeked at a lady in the midst of their bath time, moreover, the Demon Lord of this nation. Her Majesty has shut herself in her room and hasn't come out since then. Youngster, you have to take responsibility for

this.”

According to Marione’s information, it seems Eveam immediately ran to her room after the bath incident. And while concealed under the drapes of her bed, she muttered repeatedly ‘Hiiro saw me, Hiiro saw me’

Since 10 years ago, Eveam hadn’t taken a bath with someone else. Even Kiria who was her former aide, she never let her be accompanied in her bath time. Part of her embarrassment stemmed from that fact, but to think she would be seen by someone else naked, moreover by a man whom she’s very intimate with, it further increased the shame she felt.

“Despite what Her Majesty looks, she’s quite innocent”

Hiiro was aware of her inexperience, but dropping it with this timing was making it harder for him to respond.

“Because to Her Majesty, you are....no, it is because he was seen by you that she’s like that.”

Well, that’s natural, since until now men had never seen her naked, so it isn’t strange for her to suddenly have this kind of response to it. But it seems there’s something else hidden the way Marione told it to him.

“Even right now, she’s probably buried under the sheets of her bed and won’t come out. Like what I said before, you have to take responsibility for this. So come by all means to her room.”

Marione had a point. Although it was an accident, this is still the consequence of his mistake. He shouldn’t run away from this

or even think he was unrelated to this. Hence, the invitation.

“...haa, I understand. I’ll go.”

“Wait Hiiro!”

Even though he reluctantly decided to go, Liliyn calls out to stop him.

“...what?”

“.....”

“.....?”

Liliyn had this expression as if she wanted to say something, but Hiiro cannot understand what was it.

“... if there is something you want to say, quickly tell me. I don’t have time all day.”

“Uu, fine....what I’m trying to say was, don— ”

“...hah?”

Hiiro couldn’t hear her whisper like response and tried to confirm it again. While blushing, she responded,

“D-don’t be too gentle to her!!!”

What is this Red Loli saying? It was natural that he should treat wounded women with care. Especially if the cause of their distress came from him.

“You, what are you trying to say....”

“Mou! Forget it! Just get out of here already!”

Liliyn turned her back to him as if saying there was nothing to talk about anymore. Her actions felt more and more confusing lately, but he should give priority to the Demon Lord's matter first.

So Hiiro went out of the room with Marione in tow.

After Hiiro went out of the room, Silva quietly opened his mouth to Liliyn who was crossing her arms while puffing her cheeks.

“That gentleman really lacks delicacy to women, huh?”

“You can say that again! And here I thought when he'd come back soon! Then he does this!”

“Haha, calm down, let's just think of it as one of Hiiro-san's virtue, shall we?”

Although Cruzer said so, Liliyn responded with a sharp glare at him.

“You call seeing a woman naked a virtue?! Moreover, to that Demon Lord herself!”

“Nofofofo! Is Milady perhaps suggesting that she'd want to be seen as well?”

“D-don't say something foolish! Who said I wanted to be seen by Hiiro naked!”

As Liliyn's flushed expression turned beet red, she desperately tried to make an excuse.

“Hee~ so Liliyn-dono wanted to take a bath together with

Shishou this much, huh?”

“L-like I said before, that’s a misunderstanding!”

“Is that so? But it’s quite fun to take a bath together with Shishou you know?”

“J-just because it’s fun doesn’t mean that you have to involve m..... wait, what did you just say?”

“What I said? Ah, the one about bathing? Yup, I enjoy it quite a lot!”

“N-no, before that.....y-you went to a bath with Hihiro together?”

“Yup~! Although Shishou disliked it, me and Mikazuki had taken a bath together with Hihiro several times already!”

Nikki bragging about it while puffing her chest. Mikazuki who was nearby was making a similar face as well.

“Yeah, I even invited Shamoe-chan but she refused my offer, right?”

“Fueeeeee! T-taking a bath with a male together is too much of a hurdle for me!”

Shamoe covered her face with both hands as she blushed at the mention of Mikazuki’s words and shook her head vigorously.

“Ahaha, Nikki-san and Mikazuki-san sure are close with Hihiro-san.”

Cruzer couldn’t help smile at the two of them as he said so, but then, as if he felt something strange, ‘Hii!’, he leaked such a

voice. Because a black aura was gushing out from Liliyn in front of him.

“T-that stupid airhead....to think he had done it with Nikki and Mikazuki as well....”

Although Liliyn was trembling along with her clenched fists, she shook her head as if to regain her composure and then took a deep breath.

“No, calm down me. He is talented for unconsciously inviting such situations to himself. Even if I question each of them one by one, there’s no helping it since what has happened happened....kukuku, that’s right. I should just stay calm and be cool about this.”

Gradually, Liliyn regained her composure. However, Silva spoke something who didn’t try to read the situation for a bit.

“Surely at this time, Hiiro-sama is apologizing to Eveam-dono as their distance begins to shorten once again.”

Clearly, a vein popped out on Liliyn’s forehead.

“Hiiro-dono may be trying to comfort Eveam-dono but he’s unaware that it’s actually imprisoning her more through his gentle consolidation....”

Then, Liliyn begins to shake her head little by little.

(Nofofofo! A jealous Milady sure is delightfully cute!
Nofofofofo!)

Apparently, Silva seemed to have said that to deliberately make

her jealous. It was Liliyn's desire when she told Hihiro not be gentle with Eveam regarding the matter.

It was words expressing her vigilance, guessing that Hihiro would say some heart-robbing words to Eveam.

Of course, Liliyn herself isn't aware of this intention. It was only Silva who sharply realized it. Hence, Silva stirred up her heart as he wanted to see that adorably jealous expression of hers.

“...oh?”

At that time, Camus appeared as the door opened. To his shoulder was Tenn the 『Spirit』. Naturally, they both asked where Hihiro was, so Silva explained accurately the details of what happened.

Camus was ‘Fu~ I see’ while Tenn seems to have completely comprehended the situation and said ‘Not again’

Chapter 273 – The Pure Hearted Demon Lord

Under the guidance of Marione, Hiroy headed to the room of the Demon Lord which is also the private quarters of Eveam. The reason for his arrival was because of what Marione told him about Eveam secluding herself inside her room due to the shock of being seeing naked by Hiroy.

“Follow the maid from here onwards”

Marione suddenly stopped his foot upon arriving at the front of a big door. There was a woman wearing housemaid clothes ahead of them.

It seemed the area was not a good place to step in easily even if it was Marione of the Cruel Division.

The man seemed to be mindful of it. According to him, only those who are intimately related to Eveam were allowed to enter from here on out, so Marione held back himself for he was maintaining his courteousness as a gentleman.

Then that means what he was doing was beyond the house rules of this area. When he asked Marione about it, the latter responded that it was alright since this was considered an emergency.

If Eveam stays as she was, it would hinder all the work waiting upon her approval, so Marione wanted her to recover as soon as possible.

Fortunately, there seems to be almost no work for her today,

but for tomorrow, there would a lot that would come in which is the reason why Marione wanted her back in her normal state.

So Hiiro couldn't refuse the invitation to her room in order to deal with this situation since he was the one responsible for it.

"I'll be working at the office."

Upon receiving the words of Marione, the maid replied 'Yes' and then she expressed a smile to Hiiro and urged him to follow her, 'This way, please.'

There was another big door again in front of him. According to the maid, inside was said to be the bedroom of Eveam. The maid gently knocked on the door to receive her permission of entry.

Unaware that Hiiro was tagging along, Eveam immediately gave out her consent with a mumbled voice.

Eveam POV

Eveam Gran Early Evening is a 16 years old young girl. Even compared with Aquinas and Marione, she has not yet experienced what they consider the 'short life' of their race.

At such a young age, Eveam was tasked to be the Demon Lord of 『Evila』. Although at first she refused such position, the responsibility was arbitrarily forced on her due to the immediate need of a ruler.

Back in the old days, her close attendant Kiria would always clean the mess of her failures. She had also passed a lot of troubles to Aquinas and Marione. And even right now, she's still

making more.

However, just a little, Eveam was confident that she was getting used to the duty of being a Demon Lord. Of course, this was all thanks to those who had supported her, so she was glad of being able to manage the works of a ruler.

She became unexpectedly happy when Marione had praised her that she had grown up a little. Because of that, it pulled out the motivation from her to desperately study in order to improve the country through her leadership.

Today as well, she was able to finish all the work for this day very early. But that's because the amount of work wasn't that many.

Since Eveam had a lot of free time, she had decided to inspect the city after a long while. Though she thought of it as an 'inspection', but truthfully it was more like a 'relaxation' for her as Eveam wanted to visit the shops she heard recently that were selling new delicacies.

Because of this desire, one of her maids said, 'Since you are planning to go out, I believe it would be best if we put on a neat personal appearance.', thus she went to bath.

The bathhouse she used was a personal use one for the Demon Lord only, meaning she was the only one allowed to use it.

This was also one of her wishes when she became the Demon Lord, a place where nobody would be able to obstruct her as she can gracefully spend her personal time alone.

That's why Eveam loved to take a bath. So as she entered the bathhouse, washed her body and pleasantly soaked herself in the bath, she noticed a dark shadow ahead of the steam.

She did not expect that someone would come here. So out of curiosity, she approached the shadow.

But it was a mistake. She never expected that such an event was waiting for her.

The true identity of the shadow was..... the hero of 『Evila』, Hiiro.

But the moment Eveam saw him, happiness welled up inside her. Finally, he came back from his trip from the country of 『Gabranth』. She wanted to talk to him, talk to him about books since her hobby is reading after all.

So Eveam was honestly pleased with his return..... yes, to the point that she wanted to beat herself up for forgetting a very important matter. She was inside a bathroom....naked.

If the other party was a woman it'd be alright, but he was a man, a man who she was holding goodwill in no small way. Her body became hot as if she wrapped in fire instantly, and then before she noticed it, she screamed with all her might.

Eveam went out of the bathroom since then and rushed to her room. She slipped between the sheets of her bed at full speed as she covered her head under the blanket.

“That can't be true That can't be true THAT CAN'T BE TRUE~!”

She denied what happened inside her mind like a chant. To

think she would be seen by Hiiro....naked.

“I was seen by Hiiro, I was seen by Hiiro, I was seen by Hiiro...”

Eveam felt like someone called for her, but she hugged her pillow tightly and thought it was just her imagination.

“That was too embarrassing! Why was Hiiro in that place! What face will I show him the next time we meet!”

Her temperature had not cooled down yet as she desperately shook her head.

“I can’t believe it! I was seen....I was seen by someone....moreover, it was Hiiro!.....uuu~”

That said, she didn’t feel bad for being seen by Hiiro. On the contrary, what was in her mind was,

“....Hiiro s-saw my body, i...is he disappointed....perhaps?”

Normally, she would condemn Hiiro, but Eveam was most concerned on what Hiiro saw of her body.

Eveam lightly touched her chest while on the bed.

“M...my breasts aren’t that lacking...but there are a lot of little girls besides Hiiro....eh? Is it possible that’s the type of women Hiiro likes?”

It was certainly true that there are lot of women who had childish figure around Hiiro’s surroundings. Even Eveam knows a few of them.

So it was reasonable to misunderstand whether the taste of Hiiro was based on that.

“More importantly...how far have you seen Hiiro...t-there’s steam fortunately..so my f-face only? O-or perhaps down to my chest? Or else.....”

Her line of sight went down naturally, but she immediately shook her head.

“Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaa! This is too embarrassing to think about!”

After thinking for a long while, worrying in agony about it, she heard a knock from the door.

(Hm? Did I perhaps made someone wait? Oh that’s right I came out of the bathhouse without saying anything huh? No wonder they’d get worried.)

In fact, Eveam wasn’t aware that the maid who witnessed Eveam’s distress had already told Marione everything about it.

So right now, Eveam wasn’t expecting to meet the person she didn’t want to meet the most at the moment.

Eveam allowed the entry of the maid as she stayed in her bed. She heard the sound of the door opening then closing.

Thinking that it’s improper to stay as it was, Eveam slowly peeled of the blanket wrapping her and spoke in turn while her back was facing the personage who entered.

“I-I apologize for my behavior. I was distracted by an unforeseen event...so...”

Eveam slowly moved her sight towards the personage behind her, then upon seeing the person, she hardened like a stone.

“...yo”

The unfriendly reply trembled the whole body of Eveam as steam gushed out from every part of her body at once,

“W-w-wha # % & \$? * ¥ ! & !?”

She had mumbled undecipherable words. Because the person in front of her was.....

“H-Hiirooooooooooo!?”

It was the boy of her worries.

Chapter 274 – The Terms of Forgiveness

Upon seeing Hiiro's figure, Eveam had an astonished look. It seems she did not anticipate his arrival personally. She must have mistaken the knock as her maid.

Naturally, it further increased Eveam's shame as she tried to run away not noticing that there was no escape from her bed. Thus, due to her panicked state, she held the pillow with both of her arms which Hiiro found it strangely childish of her.

But more importantly, why was she still wearing a bath towel? Hiiro thought, but he decided to ignore it since he would just be adding more unnecessary problems upon himself if he did so.

"..... I have no excuse. It was my fault. Sorry"

Hiiro who doesn't bow his head easily to anyone, showed his sincerity in such an occasion to the mistake he committed.

Even though it was unintentional, it was careless of him to use his magic like that to the point of peeking at a woman who was in the midst of their bath. Or rather, what he did was already an invasion of one's personal space...

However, even though he had apologized with such intentions, Eveam had not responded anything back to him.

"....Maou?"

Fortunately, his voice reached Eveam this time as her body jerked up in surprise. However, not only the ears peeking out

from the sides of her long hair, but also her hands turned red, it seems she was still considerably embarrassed about the recent incident.

While Hiiro was worrying about this,

“.....see?”

Hiiro heard a muffled voice. But since he couldn't understand it, he made an expression as if to say 'Come again?'.

In response, while still in her embarrassed state, she said,

“.....did you see?”

Hiiro comprehended her words this time. Perhaps she was asking if he saw her naked body that time.

To be honest, Hiiro could hardly see it with the steam, but it was true that he did get an overview of Eveam's feminine figure. And it was more bigger than he expected it would be.

But how far can he honestly tell her the truth? Only an experienced protagonist who is good at dealing with the female population could actually manage to smooth things out in this lucky pervert situation.

And Hiiro wasn't among those standards. Rather, he doesn't know of such methods that could help him in his situation. So while he ran through the knowledge from the books he read and desperately sought to find an answer to his problem,

“...H-Hiiro? What's wrong?”

Eveam's worried voice reached Hiiro who hadn't responded for

awhile.

“Ah, yeah, no.....I didn’t see...anything.”

“I-is that... really true?”

“...yeah”

“I was really worried about it you know?”

Oh shoot!, Hihiro thought. It’s no wonder that Eveam who knew of his usual self would be suspicious of his attitude. Eveam felt it was unnatural for Hihiro who expresses things arrogantly and with an indifferent attitude to the words he had spoken just now.

“...let me ask you again, did you really not see anything?”

With a slight amount of effort, Eveam stared at Hihiro with a discerning pair of eyes. Hihiro somehow managed to maintain his usual poker face, but his eyes lost to the overpowering feeling of her eyes as it looked away.

“Ah! You looked away! So you really did see something! How far! How far have you seen!”

“I-I hardly saw anything because of the steam! I only saw your breast! I couldn’t see below!”

“...eh?”

.....he said it. Of all times, why did his head turn away when the situation was very critical, damn he hate his own self.

But she was the one who wanted to know right? Well, it was rude of him to shout it out but....yeah, what he said was the truth of the matter.

Speaking of Eveam, when Hiiro saw steam coming out of her,
“Y-you idiooooooooooooooooooooooot!”

The pillow that she held was suddenly thrown out at him. It was quite fast, but Hiiro caught it lightly with his right hand.

“So you saw it? Idiot! Stupid Hiiro! Ecchiiiiiii!”

“.....haa”

Thinking it was getting troublesome to deal with Eveam like this, Hiiro unconsciously spilled a sigh.

“Idiot Idiot Idiot Idiot Idiot Idiot Idiot Idiot IDIOT!”

There was not a trace of the renowned Demon Lord, as she glared at him with teary eyes. Right now, she was just a girl. A girl he couldn't just refute since he had certainly saw her naked.

“Uu~”

Eveam groaned like a small beast with her head casted downward. After a few moments, although she was still angry, she finally stopped shouting, so he decided to make his move.

“...sorry about that.”

“Uu~, you saw a woman's naked body you know?”

“.....”

“Moreover, you saw it in plain sight?”

“.....”

“I-if it wasn't you, I would have slapped that person!”

Hiiro thought he would be slapped after those words, but then she let that matter drop.

“B-but, Hiiro is my savior, and also the benefactor of 『Evila』”

Hiiro found Eveam’s current appearance cute as she pouted like a peeved child. Though her face was still flushed red.

“T-that’s why....I forgive you.”

He felt relieved wholeheartedly when Eveam said those words. Hiiro was relieved his troubles were over.

“B-but ... on one condition.”

Oops, it seems it was too early for him to feel relieved yet. However, based from his impression of Eveam’s personality, she wasn’t the type who would give an unreasonable demand.

So Hiiro deemed her task as easy as done.

“Sure, anything is fine. However, it should be in the range where I can do by myself, alright?”

He took the initiative to say it as it seems too troublesome to involve other characters in her condition.

“...r-really?....anything is fine?”

“Hm? Yeah, or more like, how about we make it into a condition where you get me to order one thing you so desire?”

After Hiiro spoke those words, Eveam suddenly raised her face and stared at him. Hiiro wondered if the condition he gave was good because her eyes regained light as it shimmered brightly

“R-r-r-r-r-really!?”

Eveam crawled towards him while on all fours on her bed. Her face was serious. But Hihiro wondered if she was aware about her bath towel appearance. He could definitely see the cleavage of her developing bust.

“Y-yeah. I’m completely in the wrong this time, so I feel bad for doing it”

Then, her expression turned contrary to her once teary expression. It had completely changed into a full blown smile. However, soon after, she became taken aback and distances herself from Hihiro while blushing once again.

“Alright, I-if that’s the condition, I forgive you!”

Eveam hid her face from Hihiro when she said that, but it was obvious that she was embarrassed due to her flushed red ears. However, Hihiro doesn’t understand the reason for her shyness.

“Deal, with this settled, I’ll take my leave?”

“P-please wait!”

“Yeah?”

“...j-just to confirm it once again, I can ask for anything I wish right? You will do anything I order you to do?”

“I don’t go back on my words.”

“...I see, ehehe”

Hihiro felt relieved as he saw Eveam’s mood restore back to her usual.

“Yeah, so if you have decided for your wish, call me. I’ll take my

leaven then.”

“Yes! I-I’ll tell it to you later when we meet at the office, please wait until then?”

“Why not? I also have some things to report to you, so that’s convenient.”

“Thank you!”

Hiiro went out of the room after glancing at Eveam’s smile for the last time. Upon leaving Eveam’s quarters, the maid on standby said “As expected of Hiiro-sama” with a smile, although he couldn’t comprehend why the maid said those words.

He didn’t do anything that would warrant such praise. He simply admitted and apologized to her. And then she cheered up on her own. It was really a mysterious feeling for Hiiro.

So the day went smoothly, Marione did not shout at him, because the awkwardness between Hiiro and Eveam was lost.....or not.

At some point, he heard a yell from Eveam’s bedroom, “Aah! What kind of attitude was that, me? !”. And then, “Hiiro’s an idioooooooooot! I even forgot to tell him my wish!”. Hiiro hurriedly left the place. Their next meeting might still be awkward.

Midway to where Liliyn and the others resides, Hiiro met a surprising person.

“Oh? Well if it isn’t Okamura-chi!”

It was Akamori Shinobu and Minamoto Shuri who were both

under house arrest in this castle.

(Hm? Something's strange?)

Obligatory aside, Eveam had permitted them to roam around the castle with a field monitor besides them. However, there wasn't one near them right now.

In other words, they weren't being monitored. By the way, the person in charge was as expected Shublarz. Although Hihiro doesn't know, Shublarz fancied the two as they look around inside the castle a lot.

However, neither she nor her subordinates were present. What is the meaning of this?

“W-welcome back, Okamura-kun.”

Shuri shyly expressed her greeting to him as she fidgeted while looking at Hihiro.

(...well, they don't seem to have escaped, and if they got permission after all, then I don't have to meddle.)

And if the likely chance they are planning to do something, they'd be troubling 『Evila』 not Hihiro himself. Hihiro decided to abandon such thoughts away.

At that moment, Hihiro heard another approaching footsteps.

“There you are, Shuri, Shinobu.”

Shublarz appeared carrying her usual seductiveness as her large pendulous breasts swayed with each step.

“Oh my, if it isn't Hihiro-kun. I heard you know, about Her

Majesty's—!?"

Hiiro immediately teleported behind Shublarz and held her mouth with his hand.

"If you continue more, I'll turn your body similar to Red Loli, alright?"

"N~nn~"

Was it too much? Because Shublarz was desperately shaking her head on both sides with a pale expression. Hiiro wanted to avoid another similar situation turning into something troublesome again.

Excluding Shuri, Shinobu was by far the most curious of the bunch, so she's likely the one who would dig the matter deeper.

However, they don't seem to have done so, probably because of Hiiro's abrupt action awhile ago.

"W-what's wrong Okamura-chi?"

"A-are you alright?"

It seems Shuri's words were intended for Shublarz who was released by Hiiro.

"Y-yes, I'm alright Shuri, t-this is just his peculiar way of greeting."

"Really? It kind of felt there was surge of blood thirst awhile ago..." (Shinobu)

"I-I agree...." (Shuri)

“A-anyway, you don’t have to worry about it! E-even I have some things I want to protect most of all!”

When Shublarz declared so,

“W-whatever was that....understood.”

“S-same here....”

Both seems to have consented although each of them still had a curious outlook.

“Haa, anyway, I’m going. Don’t tell anyone, alright?”

“Y-yes.” (Shublarz)

The three people stared at Hiroyuki who was quietly leaving the scene.

Chapter 275 – The Different Faces of Red Loli

After parting with Shurii and the others, Hihiro returned to the guest room, where he was constantly pestered by “what happened” questions from “Lililyn.

Even though she was unrelated to the matter, she made a face as if it was her own problem. Hihiro couldn’t understand the reason to it. .

“Mu~”

Lililyn puffed up her cheeks and started to sulk on the bed as a result of Hihiro’s ‘no answer’ to all of her questions.

“.....haa, Liliyn-chan has it quite difficult.”

As usual he couldn’t understand the meaning behind Tenn’s mutterings.Or rather, isn’t it he who is having a terrible time in here right now?

“Ah, Hihiro have you told Liliyn-chan about that?”

“That?aa, now that you mention it.”

He understood what Tenn meant, and so he told her about the events that transpired.

The conversation with the beast king, the matter about [Paradise]. And also about the part that he asked for the [Vararu Wilderness] from the Beast-kins.

Upon hearing all of these, Liliyn’s supposedly angry expression turned into that of surprise.

“.....N? What happened Red Loli?”

But Liliyn didn't respond, instead she frowned with her eyebrows knitted while deep in thought.

“Nofofofo! As expected of Hiiro-sama! Raising one's expectation before dropping them is a book tactic, but who could have expected that you'd raise it to the utmost limit then drop it down all so suddenly.... Splendid performance, Hiiro-sama”

As usual, Silva seems to be enjoying this, but he still can't grasp what that guy's saying. While scratching his head, Hiiro meets Liliyn's gaze.

But Liliyn immediately turned her head away at a tremendous speed.

(....ha? What's her problem this time?)

While he kept gazing, steam started to rise from her head. She shyly glanced in his direction again, and upon matching gazes with him, her face started to get red and then raised a finger towards him

“Wa,Wa wa wa wa wa what are you looking at, you bastard!”

“Who cares about that...g-”

‘Going back to what I was saying’, was what Hiiro wanted to say when he cut it off short the moment he noticed Liliyn's flushed red complexion.

“You, why don't you go to bed if you're feeling ill?”

“Nofofofo! That's not what happened Hiiro-sama, Milady is

extremely happy that Hihiro-sama went so far for her sake, you can see the happiness being expressed from her face can't bugeh!?"

A destructive sound resounded from Silva's face. Of course the cause of it was Liliyn who punched him at a speed that was invisible to the naked eye. Silva was blasted off while he spun multiple time before he crashed into the wall. And Shamoe freaked out with her usual "Fueeeee!"

Nikki was "As expected of Liliyn-dono! A magnificent Power punch!" said with respect in her words, while Mikadzuki was laughing as if this was interesting situation.

Cruzer's cheeks were twitching at the side while everyone turned to look at Silva who was submerged in the wall.

(Ha, it looks like an everyday phenomenon)

Hihiro felt a sense of relief as he saw the nostalgic sight of his comrades after a long time.

".....N? What caused you to be so shy that it caused your face to turn completely red? Did you see something embarrassing?"

"D do do do do do do don't say such stupid things! Th-th-th-th-th-th there is no way -th-th-th-th that i would be embarrassed!"

".....Is that so? Then i guess i shouldn't worry too much"

"Y-you should be worried a little about me you idiot!"

Hihiro felt an inexplicable urge to shout "what do you want me to do, then?", but he understood that this topic would keep on

going therefore he didn't say anything more, and continued the story from where they left off

“Anyways, Beast king said that he would like to talk to you about this. Particularly about [Paradise] in detail”

“I-is that so, I understand.”

Thinking that he had said what was needed to say to them, Hiroyuki turned on his heel when,

“Wh-where are you going?”

“I am going to go speak with Maou. There's lot to talk about after all. ”

“Wh-what!? You're going to go speak to the De-Demon Lord alone again!”

“.....No, it won't be just the two of us.....if i remember correctly even the Moustache Baron will be present for the talk.”

“I-is th-that so? B-But still.....”

She seemed to be thinking about something quite extensively while biting her lower lip, Hiroyuki wondered what she was thinking about so hard.....

When suddenly she turned her face around and pointed her fingers at him.

“ALRIGHT! I shall also accompany you!”

“.....ha?”

“Li-like i said, I shall go with you! O-Or is it that you don't want

me to come with you?!”

Like a frustrated puppy she continued to stare at him for a little while.

“No, I think it’s alright?”

Since the Demon Lord is the one who decides who to enter her office. And because the Demon Lord is that Eveam, Hihiro doesn’t think she would forbid Liliyn’s participation.

“You guys wait here.”

He couldn’t bring all of them over there so he asked them to remain here.

“I shall go with you Hihiro!”

Tenn said so and jumped onto his shoulder, there might not be any problems in case of small animals as well.

“Even me.....here?”

Camus asked with a lonely feeling mixed in his voice.

“Yeah, since it will take a while why don’t you tell them of what happened with those fellows in [Passion]? Look, can’t you see those eyes who want to hear about it? ”

As Hihiro said so, he pointed towards them. In that direction of Nikki and Mikazuki whose eyes were shining with sparkle in them.

“.....Understood.”

Camus seems to get along well with the two as he easily

consented to Hiiro's words..

When Hiiro tried to leave the room, his clothes were pulled. He knew this feeling, but he was a little surprised since the person pulling it was Liliyn.

“.....Tha.....”

“Tha?”

Hiiro watched her as her cheeks started to dye red while she hesitantly fidgeted with upturned eyes .

“.....Tha-thanks, you have my gratitude.....Hiiro”

“.....”

“Th-Thank you.....”

She seems to be thanking him on the matter of [Paradise].

(If she always behaved like that, it would actually be cute.....)

Hiiro lightly tapped on her shoulders.

“Don't mind it, I did it since it was for my purpose after all.”

“Wha! Y-y-you still would go to such extents for me.....”

Although he did not move solely for Liliyn, Hiiro moved his legs and remained silent as it would only deteriorate her mood if he tried to deny her

“Alright let's go quickly”

“Ah, w-wait you idiot!”

o

The two of them reached the office of the current Demon Lord Eveam.

“Oo, Liliyn-dono has come as well.”

When they entered the office, they saw Eveam, Aquinas and Marione. Liliyn, upon seeing Eveam’s face, she murmured, “Tsk, she’s awfully in a good mood. That stupid Hiiro did something unnecessary again...”, and as for Hiiro, he decided to ignore her mutter as it felt troublesome to deal with.

Somehow the matter about her appearance in a bath towel seems to have not been brought up, Hiiro felt relieved as it did not leave much after-trouble. For some reason however, every time his gaze matches with Eveam, her cheeks would turn red and avert her eyes immediately from him, but it was better than being noisy.

“And so? What did you want to talk about?”

And so Hiiro asked about regarding the movements of the Predecessor Demon Lord

“Umu, that is right. The truth is the Predecessor Demon Lord seems to be on the move”

“Hoh”

Hiiro heard from Eveam that the cave that Cruzer previously lived in [Shanjuumon Cave] collapsed. And the <Core of the Founder Demon Lord> was also stolen.

The contents of the previous meeting with Aquinas and Cruzer’s story were also discussed in the meeting.

“Heh, the <Devil>.....that’s quite interesting.”

“I-Interesting you say! Are you an Idiot!”

Marione was offended due to those words and bellowed in anger.

“It’s the <Devil> you know! It’s an existence that wishes to destroy the world! What do you think is interesting in that!”

“Even if you say that. As a Reading-Maniac who lived in a Fantasy-free world, these kind of things peaks my interest.

For Hihiro who have read tons of light novel in his previous world, there’s no way he wouldn’t be interested when otherworldly existences such as the <Devil> are mentioned.

Even if it is people such as Hihiro who has become accustomed to a sword and fantasy world, as expected they would still definitely wish to see those boss character like-existences.

“Calm down Marione. Hihiro too please refrain from making careless remarks.”

“Mu, If your Highness says so.”

Marione acknowledged the words of his lord, while Hihiro just shrugged his shoulders.

“Come to think of it Hihiro, you said that you wanted to talk to me about something..... Is it by any chance about the attack on [Passion]? Or maybe about the <Tree of Beginning: Aragorn>?”

“You knew about it?.....Ah, you heard about it from that wolf guy.”

Hihiro guessed that Ornoth must have informed them about the situation after coming back from [Passion].

“Wolf guy? A, you’re talking about Ornoth, that’s right, I heard all about it from him. And that, Hihiro did something outrageous..”

“Wha? What outrageous things did he do?”

Liliyn asked curiously. When suddenly Tenn jumped from Hihiro’s shoulders, spinned his body for a while and landed perfectly on the table, in front of Eveam and the others.

“I shall be the one to tell you that!”

Tenn puffed up his chest as if to say that he shall be the one to explain it. Hihiro who saw this, made a deep sigh while saying “not again..... ”. Ten then proudly explained how he used “Flash Fireworks”.

Upon hearing the details of it, Liliyn murmured, “Hou~”, impressed by what he did, Aquinas and Marione felt the same way as they too were engrossed in Tenn’s story telling.

(I should fix this guy’s talkative habit)

Chapter 276 – Escape

While Tenn was telling Hiiro's activity to Liliyn and the others, inside the underground prison of 【Victorias】 royal castle, 《Cruel Division, Rank 3》 Teckil Shizaa, let out a deep sigh.

“...I've gotten tired inside this prison.”

His hands were handcuffed by a magic tool that served to seal his ability to use magic. This kind of measure seemed as if he was treated like a criminal.

He was caught by the Predecessor Demon Lord Avoros, and was thus held imprisoned for a long time, but as expected the accumulation of living inside this narrow prison was painfully frustrating.

If he could use his magic, escaping from here would be a breeze, but the magic tool was too sturdy to the point that all his attempts to break it are all in vain.

“I wonder how's the world moving...is Her Majesty safe...”

It was a question unanswered by anyone, that's why he let his mind speak. He already knew that Avoros objective was world domination, but he has not grasped everything as a whole because of his current condition.

The prison guard either doesn't really respond to him, so any information was unavailable to him.

“Speaking of safety, I wonder if the heroes are also alright...”

Taishi and Chika should have also been caught here together. He remembered the time he encountered them inside the royal castle of 【Victorias】

“But for what purpose would the Predecessor Demon Lord capture the heroes for...”

If Avoros wanted to kill them, it was understandable. But he didn't and instead used them for some motive Teckil couldn't comprehend. What would he gain by using the heroes?

It was a mystery as to why the Predecessor Demon Lord would use the heroes for when he had taken over 【Victorias】 and was steadily gaining force from within.

There were plenty of reasons that could be inferred. But in the end, none of them can be concluded as the truth.

Teckil thought that he would be able to grasp the plans of the Predecessor Demon Lord and send it to Demon Lord Eveam, but he was unable to obtain any information from his current location.

Reluctantly, Teckil as usual continued to look at the ceilings with the wall behind him, when he heard something hard moved.

“...?”

Teckil's gaze glanced there naturally. One of the bricks that made up the wall shook unsteadily.

(W-what's happening...!?)

Instinctively, Teckil distanced himself as he observed it from a

distance. Then, the grinding sounds suddenly stopped.

“...hey”

A voice could be faintly heard from the other side of the wall. It was calling out to Teckil. He immediately looked towards the patrol outside of the prison. But it seems the prison guard wasn't anywhere nearby.

“Hey, is anyone there?”

The voice gradually sounded clearer. And the voice seemed very familiar.

“I-it can't be....Judom-san?”

“Don't speak too loudly.”

“I-I'm sorry.”

For some reason, the guild master of this country, Judom Lankars was on the other side of the wall.

Teckil slowly approached the crack in the wall, and brought his face closer to the gaps.

“W-why are you here? Or rather, you shouldn't be in this place. Here's dangerous. This is part of the territory of the Predecessor Demon Lord.”

“I was already aware of that. I only came here for one reason.”

“...don't tell me.”

“Yeah, I've come here to save you.”

It was another common day over at the prison as the

mutterings of that 『Evila』 could be heard as usual.

The prison guard felt proud that he was entrusted by the Predecessor Demon Lord with the position to guard the prisoners captured by his men.

He was finally able to obtain such high position from the Predecessor Demon Lord after obtaining his trust by being a stern guard. No, not just him, but the other prison guards as well.

Because an invaluable asset was captured inside his prison cell that he felt proud of his acquired position. He had been told that if he continued to do his job properly, then he might obtain a position as the head prison guard, or maybe even have the right to wear the black robe that was given only to those who were approved by the Predecessor Demon Lord.

He motivated himself with this as he got into his work more. And as usual, upon doing his rounds for today, he could hear the monologue of that person again.

Teckil Shizaa. 《Cruel Division, Rank 3》 of the 『Evila』. A man with an unusual power who even the Predecessor Demon Lord considered as useful.

That man had always muttered questions that were never answered. Of course, when the prison guard knew the answer to his questions, he would only answer them back inside his minds. Sometimes he wondered if Teckil was able to hear his thoughts since he always seemed to continue his soliloquy whenever someone passed by him.

That said. the fact that Teckil Shizaa had been locked was a

reality, and the fact that he was unable to obtain any information was also the truth. This gave him a sense of superiority. A really good feeling.

Once, then twice, as he did his usual patrols, he thought that there would be nothing unusual for today as well. However, upon his third patrol, he suddenly felt a strange sense of incongruity.

He couldn't hear the usual murmurs that he had always heard. But he did not panic. It's not like this was the first time it had happened. Sleepiness and boredom, anyone of these could ran a person into sleep.

So he assumed that he was sleeping again, and headed towards the prison cell with a nonchalant face, but the man's face expression cringed upon his arrival at the prison cell.

Because Teckil who was supposed to be inside was nowhere to be seen. There was a hole the size of which a person could pass through. And looking at the hole one caused easily tell what exactly had happened.

That's right, Teckil had escaped.

Judom had already brought Teckil to a town when the prison guard had noticed Teckil's escape from his cell.

While hiding in the shade of the buildings, Teckil continued to follow Judom from behind. When they noticed a patrol officer nearby, both of them would immediately conceal themselves.

Teckil looked at profile of Judom, who was looking around the surroundings relentlessly.

“..... is it ok to ask a question now?”

“What is it?”

“Why did you help me?”

Then Judom slowly turned around to face Teckil.

“There are big reasons and small reasons, which one do you wish to hear first?”

“.....then please start from the small reasons”

“Alright, for the the small reason.... That’s because you are necessary for my objective.”

“...I’m necessary for your plans?”

“Yup.”

“...then the big reason?”

When Judom boldly forced a shy smile, he said,

“Because you are a comrade-in-arms.”

Teckil was at a loss for words as he stiffened upon hearing Judom’s unexpected answer.

“.....that’s the big reason?”

“Yup. That’s the big reason.”

“Even if you say this co-comrade-in-arms, we only fought together once in battle though? ”

“Will you look at that, you are a splendid comrade-in-arms already”

“.....”

“Over the years that had gone by, I have learned that the more you abandon your friends, the more you will likely fall into ruin.”

Teckil’s cheek became cramped as he was amazed at Judom’s manliness. Even though they only fought together once, it was enough to invade right in the middle of the enemy territory just to save him, truly a reckless man, indeed.

Such foolish ideals wouldn’t be done if it was him. Even more if one treasures their own life. A lot people trusts and admires Judom from within this country, one of which was that King Rudolph.

If one would mention the person who could save this country, his name would definitely show up first. He is such a great person who can do just that. And he should also be aware of this.

And yet, this man didn’t hold back and hesitate to save Teckil from the enemy when his life could be endangered with a single mistake.

“Ah, you don’t have to complain, I’ve been told plenty before I came here.”

When Teckil was about to criticize him, Judom anticipated what was about to happen and quickly said such things.

“If you just thank me for saving your life then that’s enough. Ah, and also I would be grateful if you could lend me your power later.”

“....good grief, this is my first time meeting such an

unbelievable person.”

Teckil shrugged his shoulders as he let out a sigh.

“But still, returning the gratitude from saving me is also part of my beliefs.”

“Oh, then that’s good. But first we have to get out of here. We will speak the rest later.”

“Understood. Ah, before that, can you do something about these handcuffs?”

Teckil presented both of his hands.

“Oh that’s right. Please wait for a moment.”

The surrounding space of his fist began to tremble and upon making contact with the handcuffs....

The handcuffs which was supposed to be extremely strong shattered like a broken glass.

“...haha, as expected.”

No matter how much Teckil hit or rubbed the handcuffs to the wall, he was unable to even put a scratch on it, but for Judom, with just a slight bump of his fist, it shattered completely.

“The 《Impact King》 is still going strong huh”

“Ba~ka, something like this is nothing. Here, this way quickly.”

“Please wait.”

“Hm?”

“From here on out, there is no need to hide anymore.”

Judom frowned at the words of Teckil but he ignored Judom and bit his thumb with his teeth. Blood started to seep from the wound, this time he cut a small bundle of his hair with his hand sword..

And then let the bundle of hair get stained by his blood. Judom was able to connect what exactly Teckil was doing as he nodded once and watched the process quietly.

Teckil held the cut hair with his right hand and started to move his hand as if he was painting something with a brush on the wall of a building.

It was a picture of a bird that Teckil had finished painting instantly.

“Now, come out.”

The moment Teckil’s words were spoken, the picture drawn with red blood started to wriggle and moved out from the wall. The body of a 3- dimensional bird with a realistic appearance that was drawn on a wall manifested.

“It’s been a long time since I saw your 《Paint Magic》”

“Anyway, get on. It’s time to quickly get out of this country at once”

“Alright!”

The guards who noticed the two was dumbfounded, looking at the strange bird in doubt. And then the sounds of the soldier calling them to stop soon followed.

“Here we go!”

The huge wings of the bird fluttered as it carried the two and rose to the sky. And in a blink of an eye, they escaped from the country.

Chapter 277 – The Threat of Judom

The skillful escape of Teckil caused the prison guard's face to harden and sink down with a pale expression, but as soon as he got his sanity back, he immediately reported the incident to the upper echelons.

Hiyomi who received the report immediately headed to the prison cell. And upon seeing the small hole made on the wall he muttered in a very low voice

“They got us”

(Someone must have helped this escape....but who could it be?)

The disturbing elements in this country were supposed to have been roughly dealt with by Avoros. And all the citizens have already been brain-washed... then who could possibly be the one who took the risk to help the 『Evila』, Teckil.....

Or rather how did that person even know that Teckil was

imprisoned here in the first place.....

A lot of questions came up one after another, but none among them could he answer. That said, Kainabi should have been confined here as well.

She was sent here by the Predecessor Demon Lord to cool her head for a while, because she had raised her hands against her comrades.

Of course unlike the other prisoners, she was provided with a huge room and was treated like a VIP in here, even the beds and the bathroom provided was of a superior quality compared to the other rooms.

Thinking that she might know something, Hiyomi headed towards the prison cell where Kainabi was imprisoned. Although it was quite far, there's a possibility she might know something.

Upon reaching the prison cell, he opened the grid patterned cell door with a key. Inside was the figure of Kainabi seated leisurely while reading a book in her hand.

Although he could see the bags under her eyes, her physical

condition overall didn't seem to be that bad.

".....Ah? What is it, has the order been withdrawn?"

"That's right, it was just a light punishment anyway. If you swear that you would never raise your hands on your comrades again, then I can let you out. That was the order that was passed to me by the His Majesty."

".....I will absolutely hit that bit*h Isuka"

"....."

To her murmur, Hiyomi responded that she was "Foolish", which caused Kainabi to glare at Hiyomi as if he was getting out of line.

"Even though Isuka was close by, His Majesty got beaten down! It's because that bit*h didn't do anything....."

"I have told you many times already. That was the His Majesty's order."

"Even so, it is obvious that His Majesty's life should be given the top priority!"

"So His Majesty's order should be violated?"

"I don't care what the orders were as long as His Majesty lives"

Her loyalty is really something.

"I would have given my life for His Majesty anytime"

""

"My family was killed, my body was tampered with, and in the end I was thrown away because I wasn't needed anymore. I had lost my reason and will to live. But at that time, His Majesty held out his hand to me! He told me that I was needed! He said that I was indispensable!"

Kainabi's bitter smile turned to a gleeful smile.

"His Majesty is like a parent to me, the most important person

to me. That's why I will never forgive Isuka who was unable to protect His Majesty!"

She only has only one priority, and that is Avoros' life. She, who sees the world in such a narrow perspective, could only judge the behavior of Isuka as an act of betrayal.

Especially to those who would hurt Avoros. She will never betray her comrades, NO there is no way that she would betray Avoros. But, if it is to protect Avoros, she has the madness to even bare her fangs towards her comrades.

(Now how should I deal with this.....)

Although Hiyomi could somehow relate to her thoughts on the matter, but among all those who have gathered to support His Majesty's objectives, there were only few who adored him. But the rest were only acting together because their interests overlapped.

Although all these people do consider Avoros as their king and follow unconditionally, unlike Kainabi, they place more importance on His Majesty's orders rather than his life.

That's why they do not go against the orders of Avoros. Even if the content of his order meant hurting himself in the process, they'd still obey him.

It may be difficult for Kainabi to accept her comrades' ideas where strength and vector of desires differ in the first place.

"..... but comrades are still comrades. I won't ask of you to get along with them, but you should still compromise when you must compromise."

".....che"

"It's fine if you mostly give priority towards the life of His Majesty. But know that everyone is not like that. It doesn't mean they are betraying His Majesty"

".....I understand that much as well."

Although her expression doesn't prove she was convinced, Hiyomi still continued on.

"Then you shouldn't fight with your comrades. Even His

Majesty wouldn't like it if this goes on."

".....but it was Isuka's fault"

She mumbled in a childlike voice.

"It is fine if you cause mischief. But you should not take it any further. It would be troublesome to have such problems arise while His Majesty is still asleep."

"I- I know that, damn it! Anyway, what did you come here for?"

"We can finally get down to business."

"What do you mean? Come to think of it, you seem to be in quite a hurry."

Hiyomi recounted the escape of Teckil from the prison.

"Hmph. Even though he was originally His Majesty's subordinate....."

Bloodlust again oozed from Kainabi.

"I came to askif you know something about it but it seems that you don't anything as well"

"It can't be helped now, because it seems that he has already escaped from the prison!"

"That's seems to be so"

"Ah, but there was this odour I smelled a while ago"

"What odour?"

"Who was it again....the one who ruled on behalf of the king of this country before His Majesty arrived"

".....Judom Lankers?"

"Ah, that was his name? I smelled his odour some time ago?"

".....is that so"

Her sense of smell is extremely sensitive. If Judom's odour was truly in the dungeon, then it all fits together.

If he thought about it, it wouldn't be strange for him to possibly invade this place. In addition to his strength, he was also on good terms with King Rudolph, so he would also know the structure of the Imperial Castle.

Although it was still a mystery how Judom managed to pinpoint where Teckil was imprisoned, it was very likely that Judom was the one came to help Teckil.

(As I thought we should have killed him. I knew his existence would cause more problems later on.....)

The strength of Judom was even acknowledged by Avoros. He is an opponent you can't guard against. Avoros succeeded last time in kicking him out of this country, but as expected he should have pursued and killed him.

".....For the time being let's go Kainabi"

"Eh? Is that ok?"

"Yeah, I'm going to examine this castle completely and plug all the holes. Then no more rats can come in through the holes again."

"Geh, are you going to make me do that?"

"No, you go on ahead and search for Judom Lankers with Bi-Johnny."

".....no way, I don't want to partner with that gay bast*rd again....."

It was obvious that she disliked being paired with 《Bi-Johnny》, but if he were to listen to her, he would certainly feel bad.

"Anyway, prepare to pursue"

".....well. I was dying of boredom anyways. Um, but before that, is it fine if I see His Majesty before then?"

"Do as you wish"

Kainabi laughs while grinning happily. Hiyomi thought that she looked like a normal Lolita when she laughed this way.

And so Hiyomi left the prison along with Kainabi.

(Judom Lankers.....I'll remember this)

Judom, who rescued Teckil, got on the big bird created from Teckil's 《Paint Magic》, and the two of them left 【Victorias】 by them.

They were heading towards the hideout as Judom guided, but mid-way, they decided to walk the rest of the path. If they were

to continue from the sky, they might attract unnecessary attention.

The two started to advance while slowly checking if there were any pursuers. Since it was a forest, the visibility of the place reduced as they advanced.

But there was nothing there.

".....did we just get lost?"

"Nope, this is the hideout"

".....excuse me? But.....there is nothing here though?"

They were surrounded by a curtain of trees, and the meadows were spread as long as the eyes could see.

"Follow me"

With Judom's lead, Teckil moved his legs while tilting his head. Then when they reached the center of it, he could sense a faint

magical power.

(There is something.....in here?)

Teckil quietly gazed at the surroundings ahead. Judom who noticed Teckil's gaze,

"Hoh, as expected of the senses of an 『Evila』. Did you notice it?"

"Somehow, I can certainly feel something but....."

Teckil couldn't figure out what exactly was there. He could just feel that there was something in this place. The feeling was faint, if one loses concentration for a second, they could easily forget it.

"Then, check it with your eyes"

Judom pushed his back, and stepped on the ground with some momentum added into it. Immediately a small hut appeared in

front of Teckil's eyes.

".....I-is that a barrier?"

Teckil was then finally able to reach an answer.

"That's right. This hut cannot be seen from the outside."

It seems that you can only see it after one enters inside.

"It is quite far away from the capital, but this is just a precautionary measure"

There were many adventurers standing nearby the hut. As soon they saw Judom they came running as if they were waiting for him to come back. And they started to complain instantly.

In order to hear the reason why Judom pushed everyone away and went alone to save Teckil.

(Haha, all of them seems quite angry)

Although they feel happy that Teckil was saved, his adventurer comrades still felt uneasy until he came back.

But when they saw Judom had come back safely, although they were quite angry, they were all glad.

"Welcome back Judom-sama"

In that group of smelly men came the scent of a flower. Teckil was wide eyed in astonishment when he saw the figure of who had appeared.

(T-that child could it be?)

Teckil dug deep into his sleeping memory and compared it to the person in his presence. Although there were few discrepancies,

(.....there is no doubt about it. She is.....the second princess of 【Victorias】.....)

Chapter 278 – The Truth Behind the Escape

[I see. So that's why the second Princess of the kingdom is here]

Teckil, who was brought to Judom's hiding place, was surprised to find the Second Princess of [Victorias].

Although she did not lose her life from the failure of the Hero Summoning, but still she continued to absorb information while she was sleeping for more than a year due to the .

Even so the fact that she was walking on the ground of her own will, the impact of seeing her with Tekil's own eyes was still very large.

But the thing that was quite unexpected was that she had been woken up by Judom. When Avoros attacked the country, he (Judom) probably prioritized things that should be protected.

Even though King Rudolf is no more, the fact that Judom and Rudolf are Best Friends is absolute. That must be the reason why

he tried to protect Rudolf's family.

While escaping from Avoros and his comrades, the first thing he did was to head to Fara's room. Then left behind all the maids that he met along the way along with Queen Maris and the First Princess Lilith.

Originally Judom wanted to save all of them, but he was not strong enough to escape with the three of them. That's why he decided to save the one closest to his location. The fact that Fara had woken up was a huge surprise for Judom and a God send, but as a result he could only save Fara.

[If only the Queen and the First Princess was in the Dungeon then we could have brought them along as well]

Apparently Maris and Lilith were not in the dungeons, they must have been confined to other places, or they might have already been killed is what Judom said.

It was unfortunate but Teckil was not aware of their whereabouts since he was unable to get any kind of information from the dungeon.

[Uum, I still have one question]

[What is it?]

Inside the Hut was Teckil and the others Judom, Fara, Tendoku the three of them were sitting on a chair. Teckil did not have a reason to worry and asked the question he was going to. {TN: Tendoku's name is under revision}

[How did you know where I was held? And how did you know that I was caught?]

I don't think Avoros would voluntarily tell Judom my location. Even if he knew that I was caught, how was he able to come and help me while being able to pinpoint my location?

There is only one passage which acts as both the entrance and the exit to the dungeon. Moreover there are multiple dungeons, the closest one is near the entrance, but recently it had been changed from a normal prison to a somewhat different kind of prison.

Additionally, not many days have passed since then. Even if he was to know about my whereabouts this was just too early.

That's why, it was quite natural for me to question Judom's actions, it was as if he knew that I would be there from the beginning and exactly which way to move after the hole in the wall.

“Ahh so it's about that” said Judom and reached into his bosom and took out a piece of paper. And opened it and showed the contents to Teckil.

[Th-that is.....the map of the dungeon?]

Yes, it was without a doubt a composite sketch of the dungeon where Teckil was imprisoned. If you looked closer you could see that the location where Teckil was marked in red and the words written on it was Teckil.

[Th-this.....?]

[Yes~, although all of this looks like a lie, but all this absolutely true]

Judom starts to re-tell his tale from then. He tells me the truth from his own mouth.

[Firstly, all of this was given to me by that woman]

[.....'that woman'?]

[Ahh, that woman is a fortune teller; it's from her that I found out that a person named Teckil was imprisoned in the dungeon. I thought it was all a hoax]

Judom's cheeks were slightly puffed. He might have really been dubious. But I was amazed at the thought that he still came to help. Teckil now understood that it was quite reasonable for him to not allow his companions to accompany him.

[.....Who was this person?]

Feeling something shady behind the scenes Teckil asked with a frown.

[Well, she asked me to refrain from mentioning her as much as possible, so if you really want to know who that was then you would have to check it yourself, or ask her about it in the next meeting]

[.....Understood. Well, it's not like I have any complaints, it was thanks to that person that I was able to escape from there.]

That was the truth. If I remained where I was then, I had a feeling that I would be incorporated into a part of Avoros plans. So no matter the circumstances, I am grateful towards Judom and that woman for helping me escape.

[Why, you know that I was friends with Rudolf since we were kids..... I mean the king and you were on good terms right?]

[Yes]

[When we (Judom and Rudolf) were kids, we explored all corners of the castle and once we found a crack in the wall and, it seemed there was a hidden passage to the Dungeon from there. We found this passage a very long time ago though.]

[.....is that so]

[Well, the only one who found out about that place was me and my best friend Rudolf]

At that moment, Teckil could see the nostalgia in his eyes, as well the loneliness lingering behind. Teckil had wished to know what happened to that friendship, but since it would be overstepping his position he chose to not open his mouth.

[Did you not know that there is a waterway which runs through the entire castle? There is a valve mechanism on that waterway, which leads to a hidden passage through which you can get inside the castle]

[I came in through the walls last time. Which was pretty much the same way we came back.]

[Oo, I really went in with the intention of saving if you were really imprisoned in the prison]

[Wa-Wait just a moment! Did you just come without even knowing what she said was the truth and whether the information was even worth trusting?]

The doubt that Teckil had for a while was confirmed. Fara and Tendoku who were around were amazed at his actions as well.

[Seriously desu~, you would have tried to go even if we tried to stop you. I am seriously worried that you might have possibly hit your head somewhere..]

[You still have the same stupid attitude of confirming things that you always did like from way back]

[Oioi, Isn't that going a little overboard?]

To Fara and Tendoku's rebuke, all that Judom could do was make a sour face.

[Well isn't it fine that everything worked out. It was a good thing that I had gone ahead to confirm it myself.]

[Is Oira here by any chance?]

[Oh, that is, I don't know if you can trust that person or not....but]

I understood instantly that this was from the fortune teller. Certainly it might be true if she was the one who said it. But.....

[What if what I said was all a lie? Would you not feel too scared to do it?]

[No, rather, wouldn't that mean that the person who said is unreliable?]

Isn't that quite obvious? To my remark to Judom, a sigh could be heard from the surroundings.

[We-well that certainly might be the case, or it might even be a trap entirely?]

[Fuu~, Do not worry. I have been very good at hide and seek since I was a kid yo.](Judom)

[.....A hide and seek with Hidden risks involved ne~.](Teckil)

Somehow the man who helped me out seems to be a bad influence, both in a good and bad way.

[Moreover, it's not like that person is dead just yet.]

[.....the fortune teller?]

[Aa, in the meantime I can concentrate on searching for this brat which that person told me of yo~]

[Search? search for who?]

[First of all, I shall tell you all that 'that' person told me]

It seems that before the fortune teller left this cabin, that person said a few words to Judom.

[Hey Judom, I'll advise you one last time before I leave.]

[.....What is it?]

[.....if you're ever going to fight make sure to do it along with 'that person' in your company]

[That person?]

[Aa, rather than that 'person'.....that 'boy'.]

[Boy....]

[I'm sure that person will add to your strength. If it's that boy.....]

And then Judom learned the name of the boy while listening to person's words.

[Hihiro]

Or so it was.

And lastly that person took a paper from her bosom and threw it towards Judom.

[You can confirm for yourself whether that is the truth or not]

So she said before she left. The thing that was thrown towards me was, of course the map of the dungeon where Teckil was imprisoned.

[So It was like that, I don't really know if you will believe with just that or not, and so I went ahead to the castle to confirm these thoughts with my own eyes.]

[Haa~, this person is really quite troublesome. Just for such a reason.....]

[Oioi, Isn't it a good thing that all this is already in the past. Moreover, I'm gonna look towards the future now]

[What's the matter?](Teckil)

[What I mean is, the reason she that she helped you was so that you could escape safely and since I did not believe her fortune telling, she gave me that map]

[So that was the real reason, huh](Teckil)

Although it was disgusting, Judom said it with a serious face.

{TN: refers to the sentence below}

[Moreover you said that you would help me, didn't you?]

[Eh? Well, that is so, of course. Since it's my monster benefactor]

{TN: It's sarcasm referring to a slave driver}

[And also, your ability is very helpful in looking for people]

[.....!?!]

And that's when Teckil understood what Judom was saying. Teckil eyes glowed as he gulped while staring at Judom's eyes.

[.....I want you to help me find, a boy named [Hiirou]]

Chapter 279 – A Roundabout Request

Hihiro was currently, in the Battlefield Training grounds located inside the Demon Castle. And there were quite a few familiar faces around here.

The young girl who was appointed as the leader of the Magical army named Ionis, noticed Hihiro, and came over with *TokoToko* footsteps.

This girl was certainly beautiful, but she did not quite match up to the same level as Muir. Light green hair tied up to the side, while her curls moved with *kurukuru* bouncing left and right added more cuteness to her running.

[Onii-chan, did you return already?]

Ionis looked at Hihiro while tilting her head to the side with an expressionless face.

[YoYo, you seem to doing quite well]

she uses a weapon quite similar to a Yo-Yo, and therefore Hiiro nicknamed her YoYo.

[Un, what brings you here?.....Did you by any chance come here to see lo?]

Although she asked those words with full of expectation the answer was, [No] he shook his head, she had misunderstood. [.....is that so] said Ionis in disappointment. Hiiro felt somewhat guilty. He thought it was best to change topics at such times.

[By the way, is the wolf-man there?]

[.....Wolf-man?.....By any chance are you referring to Ornoth-sama?]

[That's right, He should have returned by now]

Then Ionis shook her head,

[He went out a while ago]

[.....a while ago?]

Actually the moment Ornoth came back, He immediately went back to 【Beast Kingdom Passion】 as soon as he got the orders from Eveam. That's why she came here for the drill since she was told that Ornoth was in a hurry.....

[.....missed him again huh]

Apparently he seems to have left the country already. If there was time I would have like to have asked him about the . But since he was out working I couldn't help but give up on it for now.

[What will you do.....Hiiro?]

Camus who was next to me asked, knowing clearly that there was nothing more to do here. So while hesitating I couldn't help but think about returning to the library for a little while more, but someone pulled at Hiiro's sleeves.

[Nee~, do you have time?]

It was Ionis. It looked like she'd been meaning to ask something for quite a while now, considering the tone of her voice.

[.....No, I have to go to the library.....]

When I was just about to complete what I wanted to say, I could hear a voice calling out from behind.

[Oh? Oka-mura-chi? What are you doing here?]

That voice belonged Akamori Shinobu and along with her was Minamoto Shuri.

While thinking 'Not again', he turned to look at their appearance.

The two of them were wearing the armor that regular soldier's around here were wearing. There was also a wooden sword held in Shinobu's hands.

(I understand now, the Demon lord did say that)

I heard that the two of them applied to the army. Although i don't know really what their motive is behind doing so, but i truly wonder if that decision was really correct.

I do know that the two of them are trying to rescue Taishi and friend with their own power. But I don't think that the two of them have the capability of doing so, since Taishi is held captive by the predecessor demon lord therefore I don't think that it will be that easy.

But if you gain enough strength in this country, and a Respectable position with a good amount of trust then you can be at the forefront of the battlefield and that is where the two of them will probably have the highest chances of encountering Taishi and friend.

(Certainly according to the information obtained, if war really erupts against the predecessor demon lord then the Front line of the war is the best place to lookhuh)

But that doesn't mean that they get the right to move around as they wish. Even if the two of them were to go to the front lines, there is discipline to be maintained in the military, and they have an obligation to follow it.

So even if Taishi and friend were in front of their eyes, and the orders from the Higher-ups is not to capture them, but to kill them then they don't have a choice but to obey.

(But do they understand that.....?)

It is certainly a better decision to do something than to stop and do nothing, but I truly wonder if these girls have really thought this through before taking this step.....

[N? Yo Naishi-tan and Okamura-chi?]

Shinobu was giving Hihiro a strange look. It might have seemed strange for them since Hihiro was looking at them without talking back.

[.....You guys, are you truly prepared?]

Hihiro was quite surprised at himself for asking that question. Honestly no matter what the two of them did, it was no relevance to him.

And that's why Hihiro wished to avoid asking them that but....

It might have been on a whim. Or perhaps Hiiro wished to laugh at their actions who were acting without a proper idea. He did not know which one was the truth, but somehow.....that was probably the best plan of action.

Hiiro who asked the two, but immediately a smile floated from the faces of both of them while looking at each other. And then Hiiro expected that Shinobu would be the one to answer but it was Shuri was the one who spoke first.

[Oka-mura-kun, We do understand that there are various problems with this.]

[.....]

[And the fact that you asked about this, means that you do worry about us a little.]

No matter what they said, Hiiro remained silent without expression.

[But, I had a talk with Shinobu-san. And we decided to do what

we could do.]

Shuri eyes and Shinobu's eyes were radiating seriousness. Even while being aware of the risk, they still choose this uncertain road.

There was strong desire to help Taishi and Chika in that answer. But Hiroy did not expect that the two of them would come out with the truth straight away.

(I would have liked for them to have thought a little more about the risk.....fuu~ it seems that I am still a little soft.)

But certainly they seem to be growing now compared to then when their growth lay stagnant. Although the growth shown is insignificant, but there is no reason to dislike their chosen path.

(Well, that is of no concern to me)

It would not matter to me no matter what decision the two of them took. So I don't really mind.

Hiroy answered with [Is that so], and decided to leave the place

then.....

kui....

(Ah, I almost forgot.....)

That's right, Ionis held my sleeves all through the conversation. And she was still grasping it.

[I guess this is fine]

I looked towards Ionis who spoke those words. Ionis looked at Shuri's face and then back towards Hiiro's face....

[Onii-chan, can you do me a favor]

I have a terrible premonition that this would be really troublesome and almost gripped my head unconsciously.

[A Favor?]

[Un]

[.....would it be wrong to say no]

[.....Please hear...me out]

Why is the gloomy little girl acting so cowardly. From the others' perspective, it looked as if Hihiro was bullying Ionis.

[I'm sorry about this, but I have something I must do right now.]

[Oioi, Be more gentle Hihiro]

The monkey which had its mouth shut up until now once again opened them. Of course Ten was sitting on Hihiro's shoulder without permission.

[.....what do you mean?]

[y'know, you came here to train in the art of right? You didn't say that you would only do so if there was Ornoth right]

That is certainly true, if Ornoth was not here then Hiirō wished to carry out the next important priority which is to stay inside the Library and enjoy a blissful time.

[Well well, it won't hurt to listen to her story. Since this cute little girl is asking after all. Or is it that you only listen to Muir or Mimiru?]

When I tried to reply by staring at Ten feeling irritated by his words,

[Did you meet the two of them, Onii-chan?]

Ionis' eyes shone brightly, it looked as if there was fire erupting from within them. I glared at Ten thinking that he always adds extra things, but he didn't even flinch, then he jumped to Camus's shoulder and escaped along with *hyut*

[Hey hey Onii-chan, is it true?]

[.....Well yeah]

I couldn't help but to admit to the story that was told. But Ionis

looked like she wanted to listen to the entire story.

[.....If you want to listen to what happened over there then you can ask that Talking animal, I'm sure that he would be very happy to tell you all about it.]

I moved by chin to point towards the direction of Ten, since I wished to leave the place as quickly as I could.

[Ok, I have already completed the work that I came to do here. Then I shall leave the rest of the work to this Talking animal here.....]

kui.....

But Hihiro couldn't get away. The small hands of Ionis were still grasping Hihiro's hands firmly. Hihiro thought, that he should probably try to escape with magic this time.

[Na Oka-mura-chi]

Suddenly Shinobu called out to Hihiro. Who turned his face towards them lazily.

[St-stop putting on that disgusted expression on your face! This is related to Captain Ionis' request]

[.....?]

When I looked down towards Ionis, she reaffirmed with a small nod. And then my gaze once again turns towards Shinobu.

Then Shinobu clasped her hands together with a *Pan* and then said some unexpected words.

[Please Oka-mura-chi! Fight with the us!]

Chapter 280 – Hiiro's Motivation

Since Shinobu suddenly asked for a duel with Hiiro, Hiiro naturally asked for a reason. For which Shinobu presented her side of the argument.

[Actually I don't know if you'll understand this or not, but the both us applied to the Army]

[.....and so?]

[Well, I thought that you would understand all this with a big head of yours Okamura-chi, but as I thought it doesn't seem like that.]

That might be so. Even though the Demon lord has approved of their existence, but still the two of them are still heroes. They belonged to party which attacked this country and tried to subjugate the Demon Lord.

Therefore it is impossible to immediately write-off all that has happened and get along.

[And so, we have been training here every day but.....]

[Were you by any chance bullied.....?]

Although Hihiro went ahead and asked the question, Shinobu immediately denied it by shaking her head.

[Umm, it is actually the opposite, the people in the army avoid coming near us and act as if we are some kind of a tumor.]

I see, it's probably because the soldiers are perplexed on how to treat the heroes. Although they are under observation, the soldier's probably think that the ability of the hero is something that is way beyond the usual understanding from their past experience.

The soldiers think that they might do something bad, and therefore they run away from these two thinking that they (Shinobu and Shuri) might do something to them.

Therefore they try not to associate more than necessary with these two. Although this is not running away, nor does it look like

bullying the newcomers, but it's just their attitude towards stronger existence.

[.....You two, aren't you misunderstanding something?]

Hiiro spoke those words with an annoyed expression while his eyebrows were raised.

[Mi-misunderstanding?]

[That's right, if you think about your position, you can understand why the people here have such an attitude towards you, and from where you are standing now it cannot be thought anything short of abnormal.]

[Th-that is....]

[This treatment is because of the Demon lord. Normally the two of you would have been executed long ago, aren't you thankful for that?]

To the words of Hiiro, Shinobu and Shuri had nothing to refute them.

[Moreover since you are the Heroes of the Human race, the soldiers are wondering whether you two really entered the army for the sake of [Demon (Evila)] or maybe they think if you two would really do something to contribute to [Demon (Evila)] right?”

[Uu~u]

[Oh, did you two wish to show off your strength to them with a match against me?]

[.....]

Silence was the confirmation.

[Well, according to you, if I take up your request and fight against you two in front of the Your army battalion then it means that I acknowledge you two to be my opponent in this friendly match which will change the attitude of the soldiers right]

According to the looks of agony on their face the two of them seemed to have received a critical hit and looked at me as if

asking for no more.

[I will say this again, don't get me wrong. I will admit this in front of your right now, I don't like fighting. You can understand this if you think about this a little, but you're still naive. I did tell you that this will not be very easy.....or have you forgotten?]

[We! We did not forget! We-we just wanted to do something to prove ourselves.....]

Shinobu turns her head away with a *mirumiru* sorrowfully.

[Oka-mura-chi is correct. All of it is correct, we thought that the two of us joining the army would increase the chance of us helping others out.]

Hiroyuki nodded with a *as i thought* look.

[But even so we made sure to have gone over this with Eve-chi]

Demon lord yo, I wonder if it is really fine calling you that...

[We also know that we are a pain to Ionis-sama, and to the army and we even cause trouble to Shublarz-sama]

Oioi, you're referring to the Demon lords subordinate with a -sama suffix, but to the demon lord.....just how close are you with the Demon lord.....?

Unintentionally Hiroyuki was widely amazed at the futility and the incapability of the Demon Lord...

[Knowing the intentions of the army, we don't mind being treated like that. We are rather truly happy]

Shinobu laughs with a *Hoho*, and turns towards Shuri. And this time Shuri was the one to speak.

[Of course, we also desire to realize our dreams. But, before that we would like to give back our thanks to the Demon (Evila) - desu]

[Repay, huh?]

[Yes, Even though we are Heroes the Demon (Evila) still took

the two of us in and gave us a chance to stand up again. Therefore, we are very thankful for that. And that's why, we would like to be useful and help others with the power that we possess.]

When Hiiro peered into their eyes, he could see their eyes burning with resolve, and he felt that he should look forward to what they do.

But Hiiro was quite surprised when the two said that they liked the hospitality of the Demon (Evila). But well, Hiiro was convinced since even he was quite pleased with their hospitality.

[I see, I understand what you're saying. But I am not going to fight you here, because there is nothing in it for me.]

Hiiro was getting quite tired, while he was wondering why he should move for the sake of these who he doesn't even know that well.

When Hiiro said so, with one look you could see the depressing feeling coming from Shuri and Shinobu.

[Is there any other way to convince this person here.....hm?]

Ionis pulled the sleeves of Hiiro's attire while he was speaking.

[...what is it?]

[Being their opponent.....is it no good?]

[As is said earlier, it's a pain and there is no merit in doing so.]

Rather than doing that I would rather spend as much time as possible at the Library.

[.....is that so.....]

When looking at Ionis' eyes one could feel a sense of disappointment coming from them.

If you look at me with such a face, for the people who are looking at us it would look like I am bullying a child.

[Hey Hiiro, it's fine even if it's just a 1000m race.]

This talking monkey, Ten, never lets go of chance to add extra

things to the talk.

[Then why don't you go ahead and compete against them? wouldn't it be a wonderful thing for a [Sprit] such as you]

Hiiro wove the disgust in to his tone.

[Your tone is completely different to your words! Moreover, the two Jo-chan here want to fight against Hiiro right?]

[If you want the people here to recognize you, wouldn't be fine if it's someone else? Even if they do accept to fight against you, you can still talk to them and spend more time with them]

[Ah, Hiiro is such an Idiot.....but i guess it's alright, why don't you try what he said for a bit]

Indeed as Ten said, if Ornoth was here then Hiiro would have needed an opponent to try something with. But since Ornoth had left already, he had already switched to his reading mode.

[Other than that, you can all try going against Nitoryuu later on]

[N.....then I will be your opponent in place of Hiiro]

Camus answered with a Dead-pan expression, at that time, when everyone was about to give in to the unwavering will of Hiiro,

[Ara~ everyone what are you doing~?]

Shublarz appeared with her mature appeal and a smile on her face. When she saw Hiiro she clapped her hands with *Pachi* while thinking this was a very good thing.

[If~ it'sn't~ Hiiro-kun~. N~.....did something happen~?]

When she looked at the faces of Shinobu, Shuri and Ionis they all had a sinking expression on it.

[Actually what happened was.....] Ionis explained the proceedings to Shublarz.

[N~ so that's what happened~, so Hiiro-kun won't fight against them no matter what?]

[I don't want to. I would pointlessly get exhausted]

[Oh yeah, since Hihiro-kun is a guest we cannot impose such a thing on him ne~]

Hihiro thought that although she was weird she had good sense along with her personality. Then, Shublarz closed her eyes, as if thinking really hard about something, and put her hands together while her huge breasts rested on her arms,

And then she put her closed fist on her opened arm with a *Pon*,

[If that's the case then it's good~. I had something that I wanted to request that only involves the two of you]

Shinobu and Shuri look towards her direction. Not just the two of them but all of the people focus their gaze on Shublarz with a *Kyoton*. {TN: astonished SFX}

[Actually ne, I heard that the stock of fishes and the shellfishes were getting lower and lower and so I wanted you procure it from [Azazel Sea]. Usually this kind of task would have been left to the Herb Collection squad~, but since you were trying so hard to earn our trust why don't you give this a try?]

The [Azazel Sea] that she mentioned is the nearest ocean to this country. Sea food for the country is mainly procured from there.

As the sea is in contact with the Demon continent, the Danger Level is really high and therefore a lot of troops need to be deployed, and Shublarz wanted to do something to help Shinobu and gang, this seemed to be a perfect opportunity for them to prove themselves.

[Isn't this a good thing~, since this mission requires both trustworthy and capable units to accomplish this task, correspondingly you will obtain equivalent trust~. Alright then I guess there is no need for me here anymore~]

Just when I thought that i could finally leave this place,

[Wait just a moment Hiiro-kun~]

[Hm?]

Suddenly Shublarz's voice sounded out asking for me to stop.

[Actually~, I wanted Hiiro-kun to go along with these two no~]

[.....What are saying?]

Hiiro's mood instantly turns bad. No matter in which way he thought he didn't see any reason to go along with them so wondered what could be the purpose behind those words.

[It's like this ne~, there is a happiness shark in that ocean there.....]

[Alright, I will definitely make sure to catch it.]

[[[[[.....eeeeehh?]]]]]

Hiiro became determined and made a closed fist which gave off the feeling [Leave it to me~]. But this sudden change in Hiiro's mood and his answer left everyone staring and wide-eyed.

Even Ten was looking with his mouth hanging open and his eyes wide. Everyone was dumbfounded at Hiiro accepting Shublarz proposal within moments.

[Aa, that is, umm.....is that ok?]

[Yes, its fine, we shall leave as soon as possible.]

[Um, is..... that so? Eh eh, I would be very glad~ if you do~]

Looking at the palpable motivation burning fiercely in Hiiro's eyes, Ten approached Shublarz and asked,

[Was this your aim?]

[Yes~, although I had planned many things to make him accept if this failed~, I never would have expected that he would accept it without causing any troubles at all ha~]

[What do you mean?]

[Actually it was Moosun (the chef). Hiiro-kun would accept it as long as it was matter concerning food and ingredients. Apparently this was something that Hiiro-kun said that he had wanted to eat again if possible since he had it in the past.]

[Haa~, and so?]

[It seems to be about the Happiness Shark no~, Hiiro said that to Moosun that the Happiness Shark that he had eaten previously was really delicious and so Moosun said that he knew to prepare many delicious Happiness Shark dishes, and Hiiro-kun had asked for Moosun to cook it again if there was ever an opportunity~]

[Ah~ and so.....this changed behavior]

Ten nods as if confirming the fact about Hiiro's sudden change in Motivation.

[Even so.....Even though he was extremely stubborn until just a while ago, with just a mention of a food ingredient..... such a simple guy]

[Fufufu~, Ara~, I actually find this side of Hiiro-kun really cute~ yo? And with this no matter what happens, Hiiro-kun will be with those two kids, so isn't that two birds with one stone.]

Even now the stunned Shinobu and Shuri were looking at Hiiro.

(Seriously~, Hiiro's character is so very easy to understand at the same time so very hard.....well, that's what i find really interesting about him anyway)

Ten gives a toothy grin. Then ran from where he was and jumped onto Hiiro's shoulders.

[Alright! Let's head to the [Azazel Sea]]

[Absolutely! I will definitely catch it and obtain that delicious dish]

He raised his fists to the sky like a kid showing his enthusiasm. Ten and Camus also join in doing the same gesture with an [O~~]

Chapter 281 – The Azazel Sea

[Azazel Sea].....the name of the sea bordering the demon continent. It is the ocean closest to the [Demon capital Xaos], and most of the seafood supplied to the continent is obtained from here.

As the sea is the closest to the Demon continent, the monsters which inhabit the sea are equally powerful, and there are plenty of them. Although it is somewhat easier to fish here than compared to the [Berial Sea] which lies to the north, the trip would still take a considerable amount of time if the preparations made are half-hearted.

The Danger level of the sea is Undoubtedly SSS rank. And Musun's request was to harvest Sea food living there.

The ones who are to complete this request are the two heroes Shinobu and Shuri who are Cadets in the Demon Army, and somehow the one accompanying them on this quest was Hiiro.

At first, the one who was the least enthusiastic was Hiiro, but never did he expect that the monster called Happiness Shark that

he had eaten before lived in the [Azazel Sea].

When Hiiro was travelling with Arnold and Muir and he remembered the time when they passed through the Humas City and had the dish [Saju].

TL: Google saju and some dishes of sea food shows up.

(That was really delicious.....)

Just thinking about it was making Hiiro drool from his mouth, as he was still remembering it from his previous experience.

When Hiiro recounted this story to Musun, she said that she had made many different types of dishes with the Happiness Shark as the base. And then she said that if the opportunity ever arose, she would make the ultimate Happiness Shark dish, and Hiiro was asked to lend his assistance some time to catch that ingredient if there ever was a chance.

Hiiro answered [Absolutely!] without a shred of hesitation.

Originally Happiness Shark was only found in the [Great Blue

sea] which was adjacent to the [Humas] Continent. Moreover, it was only found in the depths of the ocean and would rarely ever come up to the surface. Although it was really rare, it would appear for short span of time on the surface of the sea during the egg-laying season. Its body was beautiful peach colour and had a small patch of red, and a tinge of Jade on the top of its head. It was an organism whose whole body was an ingredient where one could eat the whole the body, from the teeth to the tail, even the corners of its body was edible.

Then why was the Happiness Shark that was only found in the sea of the [Humas] Continent be found on the Demon continent's sea, actually the reason was that the happiness Shark was originally a native of the [Azazel Sea].

However as time passed, the Happiness Sharks made a great migration as a huge Colony to change places. Even so, some of them refused to migrate and those few remained in the Azazel Sea and they bred with the remaining ones.

And now the time has come again for the Happiness Shark to lay eggs and therefore they shall appear on the surface of the sea.

[The sea~ is a fun place~!]

When Nikki heard where Hiiro was going, Nikki could hardly wait since it had been a long time since they had been to the sea.

Since Nikki was going, Mikazuki also wanted to go, but she had promised to go shopping with Shamoe, and Hiiro told her that [Promises must be kept] so in the end, she gave up on going with Hiiro to the sea.

Lilyn, Silva and Kuzel were not able to make it, since the three of them had something they wished to discuss.

Eventually the party came down to the three of them, Nikki, Camus, Ten, together with Shinobu and Shuri which made five and with Hiiro it totaled to six. Well, actually it was five people plus one animal.

Of course it was not just them, the soldiers under Shublarz were coming along as well. They were all travelling together on a Sky Horse Drawn Carriage.

It was a Sky horse Drawn Carriage which could freely move in the sky using a monster Raidpeak* which belonged to same race as Mikazuki {EN*: previously Tled as Raidpic}

TL: I did so that there would be a difference between the flying one[Raidpeak] and the Non flying one[Raidpic].

The Raidpeak like Mikazuki on the Beast-men Continent have degenerated wings so they couldn't fly in the sky but the Magicians in the Demon continent bred Raidpeaks which could fly.

Interestingly, the body of the Raidpeak itself has been changed into a horse drawn carriage with a huge loading platform; it was quite the unique monster.

Instead of pulling a separate carriage to the sky, the carriage itself is moving and soaring through the sky.

Right now, Hiiro and party* were looking down from the Raidpeak at the Demon Continent from the sky. There were various sights to behold.

{EN*: dunno why but it sounds awkward. The Jap version, 'Hiiro-tachi', flows better imho}

[TL: Me too ^]

There were Huge Mountains, Lakes, rivers, valleys, forests, and many others. Not only Nikki but even Camus and Ten were enjoying the scenery.

Since Hiiro had seen this sight a couple of times when he flew through the sky he wasn't that impressed, but he felt that the comfort of horseless carriage to be quite good and entrusted himself to the carriage without any worry.

Then the five of them soon arrived at their destination [Azazel Sea]. And what was reflected in Hiiro's eyes were the strange yelling and fighting spirits being emitted by Shinobu and Shuri.

(Well, if you do your job well the emotional distance between the soldiers and yourselves may be shortened, I guess it's reasonable.....)

If something were to go wrong, Hiiro shrugged his shoulders thinking that he would be here to help them.

[OOOOHHH!? IT'S HUGEEE ZOO~~!]

[Mm....It.really.is.huge]

[As expected the sea is completely on a different scale~]

Nikki, Camus, and then Ten in that order, each gave their comments while speaking aloud. Indeed as Nikki and the others said, the sea which was spread in the front, nothing could be seen ahead of the horizon line, and slowly sinks into the vast blue.

Although the Demon continent is certainly very huge, it is still undeniable that it still inferior compared to the ocean. The sea is the source of all Life forms. Mother Ocean. Hiiro felt that no matter which world it was the ocean was the biggest vessel compared to the rest.

The soldiers were inspecting their weapons and harpoons which they will be using in the sea. Shinobu and gang* seemed to be helping them with that.

{EN*: this 'and gang' would be '-tachi', doesn't it fit better? It can be translated many ways, but idk; well...you guys decide (just say in the comments?)}

Apparently they seem to be communicating quite naturally

with Shublarz's subordinates and there were no unnatural situations with their communication. They probably must have heard what kind of people Shinobu and gang were from Shublarz.

Or it may be that they must have done something together with them several times and therefore there was some degree of trust was established between them. Hiroy thought that the latter seemed more likely according to the situation.

[Ok then,.....Oy my stupid disciple]

[Ah, coming desuzo~!]

Hiroy called Nikki who still seemed to be lost looking at the sea.

[I shall give you a duty which shall be a part of your training from now on]

[OOO! What will it be!?]

Nikki had a smile on her face expressing her happiness.

[Aa, I told you this in the carriage. I will be heading to capture a few monsters and I want you to capture any monsters that you can as well]

[Yes desuzo! I will make sure to do it properly desuzo!]

[Nitoryuu, As I already told you I want you to be this one's bodyguard so I shall leave it to you]

[Mm.....Hihiro's request. I . will . do . my . best]

I spoke to Camus and asked him to look after Nikki, before we arrived here. Since Nikki is still a child, and the situation was just perfect. Therefore, I asked Camus to look after Nikki and not to allow her to do anything ridiculous or frightening.

Since he was of the "Ashura Tribe", and he had trained many children, and besides, he is on good terms with Nikki. Therefore Hihiro judged that Camus would be able to Control Nikki properly.

[Yellow monkey, you're coming with me]

[Ok~]

Ten showed his acknowledgement by giving a thumbs up.

[Alright then, let's go]

[Um Hiiro]

[What is it, Yellow Monkey?]

[Is it really fine to leave those two children alone?]

Ten prompted his question about Shinobu and Shuri who were a little further away.

[I guess it's fine? I never accepted to babysitting those guys. I just came along with them and that is all. And besides, I have something that I must do.]

Of course that is to catch Happiness Sharks. I wish to catch every one of them without worrying much about other things, this is a precious chance that I cannot let escape. Sorry about that.

[Fuu~.....umm Hiiro, is it fine if I go with them?]

[.....Do what you want]

Hiiro did not think that the stubborn Ten would change his mind so easily since Ten said that it was no good. Rather than quarreling here and wasting time, doing what you feel right is better.

[OK yo, be careful~]

Saying so, Ten went towards the place Shinobu and Shuri were at.

And so, the troops that shall start capturing were decided in this way.

Telling Nikki once again to be careful and not get stuck, Hiiro then prepared himself to enter the Sea.

Hiiro wrote the Words [Water Repellant]<Nurezu> onto his clothes using Magic. And also placed a few more essential words onto his body, where after, he used the Word Magic [Fly] <Hisho>

to take to the skies and went off the Beach.

Chapter 282 – Towards the Sea

Shinobu and Shuri stood stunned as they watched Hihiro fly towards the sea.

[Okamura-chi certainly is amazing.....he's flying in the sky.]

[wh-wha.....]

[He seems to have even won against the Beast King, but he still continues to surprise me.]

[That's.....right. Even though we came into this world together, the difference between us is so huge.....]

Shuri watched enviously at Hihiro flying through the sky.

[If that's what you think, then shouldn't the two of you work harder from now on ja~?]

The two of them were surprised to suddenly hear someone's voice, but as they turned their heads towards the origin of the voice, they were unable to locate the voice's origin and so they tilted their heads in confusion

[Oi~, OVER HERE]

A voice came from below. When the two of them slowly lowered their heads, they finally saw [Ten] The spirit who was watching them with a smile full of shining white teeth.

[um....if I recall correctly you must be the [Spirit] that Okamura-chi has contracted with right?]

[Ooh, So you do remember! Ukiki [1]]

[I heard about you from Shublarz-sama, even the soldiers were gossiping about you.]

[Ooh! I seem to have suddenly become quite famous! Uwa~ this is very nice!]

After hearing what Shinobu said, Ten judged that he had become quite famous with the soldiers due to his previous actions [2] and grinned.

[Well, you are certainly famous for being Okamura-chi's contracted [Spirit], right Shuri?]

[Ehh, Yeah!]

Ten's smile stiffened as he started to feel remorse at only being

known as a side topic of Hiiro getting a contracted spirit. Such as Hiiro the [Evila] Hero and then, Ten the [Spirit] who was contracted to the Hero.

[Un, as I thought, it was about being Hiiro's.....No! From now on! I shall become even more popular than Hiiro! And make everyone change their views into Hiiro contracted to the [Spirit] and make him cry]

Ten performs a Guts pose to show his Burning spirit.

[.....um, do you think that you can make Okamura-chi cry?]

Shuri stared at Tens eyes but suddenly, Ten averted his eyes. But Shuri still continued to stare at Ten not knowing what to do.

[Well, it does seem a little weird. I can't seem to imagine Okamura-chi's crying face, ever!]

[Fuuu~! What's with you two! I will definitely make sure to make Hliiro cry.]

[We-Well, you do seem to be quite an interesting monkey.]

[Ukikiki! You can praise me more ~!]

As Ten made a V-sign, Shinobu asked Ten why he didn't go along with Hiroyuki but came over here instead.

[N~ it's fine, I was worried about you girls]

[Eh? About us? why?]

[Yes, about you two girls, isn't this a good opportunity for you?
]

[[Eeeeh?]]

Not only Shinobu, but Shuri also cried out in disbelief. The voice included a certain amount of Expectation. When he saw this, Ten nodded once with an "hmm".

[Right now, it's a great opportunity for you, no? So, I thought I'd help out a little.]

[... .. ma-maybe, is this Okamakura-kun's suggestion?]

Shuri asked with some expectation.

(N? Maybe this young lady)

Ten knew that Shuri was quite concerned about Hiroyuki,

(Well, I did hear about it from Hiiro, but these kids really need some teaching ... Or maybe?..... are they M?)[3]

Ten thought about such things, getting excited as well as mad at times. It was absolutely probable that Shuri would vomit right there if she knew what Ten was thinking.

[No, that guy didn't even think about you girls for a moment.]

Then, Shuri became visibly depressed and said with a disappointed voice [isthat so?] as Shinobu just gave a wry smile.

[Well, even so, Hiiro did allow you girls to come along so I believe that he has already considered these things before, and so, me being here is Hiiro showing interest is it not?]

[u.....that....yes]

Shuri didn't pursue this any further.

[Moreover, you girls might be wondering about when Hiiro might be thinking about you, and so, since I am here doesn't that

mean Hiiro cares a bit right?]

[[.....Yes]]

And so, Shinobu also dropped her head affirming it.

[Well, I guess that's enough~ now, what do you say ladies?]

With a *kokun* [4] the two noded.

[But you do admit that you came all this way because you wanted to change something right?]

The two nod again.

[If Hiiro was here to lend you a hand, then that's not what you two ladies want, isn't it?]

[That is.....Yes]

[Right? Maybe that's why Hiiro did not stay here to give you ladies a hand right?]

[Is that so?]

What was really going on in Ten's Head was,

(Well, if these guys were to really see what that guy really wanted to do, then I don't know what effect it would have on these ladies.....)

Ten thought it wouldn't help to voice it and so kept it to himself.

[Well, it will not be the same now, if you were to achieve good results here, then Hiiro might just notice you, or maybe even you ladies' goals may be realised and you'll obtain the soldiers' trust.]

[Yes, It is as [Spirit]-san said.]

And so, a strong light returned to Shuri's eyes.

[And that's why, I felt uneasy when I looked at you two ladies' current state, and so I came here to help you out.]

Shuri eyes shone as she memorized his impression as he waved his hands about.

[If I left you alone, then you would definitely fail. If that happened then it would truly have been a pity, is what I thought.]

[Ah, Thank you very much [Spirit]-san!]

[Thank you!]

[It's fine, It's fine, I really like it when a cute girl has a smile on her face~ ukikiki, and My name is Ten]

[Understood! But calling you Ten would be hard when talking, is it fine if I were to call you Ten-chi?]

[Okk~~]

[Best regards Ten-chi!]

[Please take care of me as well Ten-san. But even so this is good news, please come here]

As Shuri apologized about earlier while shaking ten's hands, Ten grinned with a *chitchitchi*. [5]

[I don't mind~, I just did what I must do!]

[Fufu~, Ten-san is certainly similar to Okamura-chi right.]

[Eh!? How is that possible! I am more friendly towards ladies and can read the air!]

Ten immediately shouted from the depths of his heart.

[Ahahaha! That might be so, if you think about it, it's actually

true!]

[IT'S A LIE!]

While listening to Ten's cries, the two of them laughed happily. Unlike their previous was gloomy and dark expression, they now had an enthusiastic and more happy atmosphere about them.

While Ten and Shuri's team were enjoying talking amongst themselves, Nikki and Camus were in a bathing suit, unlike Hiiro.

Nikki was wearing a light blue one-piece swimsuit, a frill was around her waist looking quite cute. And well Camus was.....

[.....Me, but I am a Man though?]

Somehow he was in a swimsuit designed for ladies, his figure was covered in pink in a hip cover culottes. [6]

[You look really good Camus-dono!]

[N.....Thanks. But is this really fine?]

[Yes definitely zo! Since we were going to the sea, Shamoe-dono was the one who prepared it for the both of us zo!]

[..... Well, I guess it's fine.]

Camus was a man, but apparently, he liked it as well so he did not pursue it further.

[Then let's go now Camus-dono!]

[.....N]

Camus brought a black sword which he carried with both hands, and Nikki went along to the sea empty-handed. When the seawater reached up to his knees, Camus opened his mouth.

[Nikki.....the prey, do you remember?]

[I definitely remember zo! If I recall correctly it should be a shellfish!]

[.....That's right]

[Uuu~ I look forward to seeing what a shellfish really is!]

Nikki had a face full of excitement with clear eyes full of preparation.

[Nikki.....what kind of shellfish, did Hiiro tell you about its location? He probably told you before.]

[Eh.....is-is that so?]

Suddenly Nikki expression froze and sweat started flowing from her forehead.

[Maybe.....you didn't listen?]

[Ah.....]

It seemed that Camus's words hit the spot. Nikki started to hold her head.

[Th-this is really BAD! I was sleeping and did not hear the complete story! If I were to catch a different shellfish then Teacher will.....]

[N....there will be punishment.....]

[NOOOOOOOOOO! I DON'T WANT A PUNISHMENT ZOooooo!]

Nikki started swinging her head while holding it with both

hands. As expected, Nikki was a fool who would not betray expectation.

[.....It's alright]

[Uuu.....Camus-dono]

[I.....made sure to listen properly]

Then Nikki brightens his expression and embraced Camus.

[Uooooooooo! Camus-dono, I will definitely live with you for the rest of my life zo!]

[Ahem!]

Camus also bragged by pushing out his chest with a confident expression.

[Then.....listen carefully]

[Yes~ desuzo!]

[Around this area..... live the Iroboshi shellfish]

[Iroboshi shellfish? What kind of shellfish are they?]

[Theyhave a star-shaped shell]

[Hoooooooo~]

[And they appear in many different colours.....it seems]

[Are there really that many?]

[The taste seem to differ depending on the color.....it seems.....said Hiiro]

[understood desuzo! Then if I am able to get all kinds of shellfish then I will be praised by Teacher]

[Be praised.....you say?]

[Of course desuzo!]

In response to Nikki's words, Camus's motivation went up another level. His eyes suddenly turned sharp.

[I....will do it]

[Then I shall go on ahead Camus-dono!]

The two of them looked at each other and nodded, and went further into the sea.

[1] TN: sfx of Ten's creepy laugh

[2] TN: Ten's actions over at beast kingdom.

[3] EN: For those that don't know, 'M' = 'Masochist'

[4] TN: sfx for nodding your head

[5] TN: sfx of Ten going chitchitchi. (EN: Evil laugh?)

[6] TN: Oh yeah, they exist

Chapter 283 – Respective Offense and Defense

Hiroyuki was looking at the ocean while flying in the sky after using his {Flight} character. There were no islands in sight, only the vast open sea.

Currently, the ocean waves were quite calm. However, because this was the [Azazel Sea] the tide changes according to the time of day. It is calm now at noon, but at other times there would be raging storms. Some strong enough that they were like a typhoon whirling towards land.

Hardly anyone fishes here, being limited to a short amount of time makes it almost impossible.

[Now, according to the information I was provided, this is supposed to be the place where the Happiness Shark are supposed to surface]

A Happiness Shark is a monster that only comes up to the sea surface during its mating season. To add further difficulty to finding one, they only surface when the sea is calm.

As Hihiro continued to watch the sea surface, he could see a black shadow slowly raising to the top.

[... Is this it? Or maybe...]

His eyes focus more on the shadow, as it slowly floats towards the surface. Suddenly, something sharp cuts the air as it flies towards Hihiro. He understood that if he were to receive this attack, it would leave him in a critical condition.

(As I thought, it was something else entirely.)

He already knew what the other one was, there were only two types of monsters that could appear at this hour.

The Happiness Shark was one of them, while the other was...

[This is my first time encountering a Count Octopus]

It is a huge Octopus with reddish skin which further emphasized its hard features on its face along with a ringed mouth, which stretched like the nose of Pinocchio. The creature almost reaching eight feet tall.

Its immense body was more than enough to consume him in one bite.

[Oy, if the Happiness Shark does not surface because of you, I'm not gonna forgive you!]

While flying farther away from the coast to escape the octopus, he became aware of how it followed him. Stretching its tentacles looking for the precise moment to attack.

(I must take care of this quickly.)

If this took too long, the Happiness Shark would finish spawning and return to the Deep Sea.

From behind, the tentacles started to attack one after the other. With huge momentum behind each attempt. However, Hihiro was able to dodge each of them by moving to the left.

After moving for what seemed far enough, Hihiro stopped and directly faced the Count Octopus.

Sensing the time to strike, the octopus quickly sent his tentacles. Meeting each tentacle was not Hihiro's body, but rather his blade [Katana Zangeki]. With a cleave, the tentacles were chopped in half and fell towards the sea.

But, in the next moment, new tentacle heads regenerated from the wound.

[That's quite convenient.]

Apparently, it didn't seem to be damaged even though its tentacles were cut off. As retaliation, the octopus spewed black ink from its mouth.

(The information also included that the ink contained a paralysis effect)

Knowing he should not let the ink touch him directly, Hihiro quickly used his {Reflect} character from one of the ready words to reverse the ink's trajectory.

With a *busha~* the black ink hit the head of the octopus, and its movement quickly stopped.

[Alright!]

Thinking that this was the best time to attack its head, Hiiro rushed forward. However, several tentacles caught and coiled around him. Stopping any movement.

[ugh!?]

Even though Hiiro managed to avoid many of the tentacles, one managed to grab onto him. *Girigiri* The tentacle was able to apply considerable pressure on his body, trying to crush him. Contrary to his dire situation, Hiiro did not struggle or show any anxiety in his eyes.

[Hmm, if a monster isn't resistant to its own ink. Then it would certainly not be called a unique monster.]

The other tentacles gradually changed shape, the tissue going from a soft rounded shape to one rigid and sharp like a blade.

(So, this is how it eats its prey.)

Originally, it would slash at its prey after they were covered in paralyzing ink.

[But, you are mistaken about who is the prey.]

In the next moment, Hiiro used one of his installed characters: {Electric Discharge}

Bachibachibachi!

A violent discharge surrounded Hiiro's body. Subsequently, the octopus tentacles were burned. The Count Octopus also released the tentacle which had been wrapped around him, which was badly burned.

Hiiro continued to look at the Count Octopus with a cold gaze which was illuminated by the sun.

[It has been quite a long time since I had fought a unique monster, this is a better time than any to take care of it as well.]

As soon as he said that, Hihiro spread open his arms and instantly the air around him turned silent.

=====

[Okamura-chi, He- He is fighting against a unique monster all by himself.]

Shinobu was distracted while she puffed her cheeks as she watched Hihiro fighting against the unique monster in the distance.

[Count Octopus is a monster which is at the SS rank right? Is it really ok for him to fight it against it by himself? ... Okamura-kun is really amazing!]

Juri had forgotten to blink while watching the spectacle.

[No, no, no. Its completely fine, he is still having fun with it.]

[Is- is that really true?]

Ten asks doubtfully.

[Yeah, he is probably trying something new with it.]

[What? Something new?]

Shinobu started to focus much more on what was happening.

[Yeah~ but that is a secret~ I wouldn't tell you even if you asked me. But, it doesn't matter since you can see it happen anyway.]

[What is that way of explaining? It gets me even more interested now.]

[Leaving that aside; Oy, Oy! Over here! Get back to work right now!]

[Ah, that's right. It's fine if Tet-chi says it is. I can feel relieved that Okamura-chi will be fine. Come on Shuri shall we go?]

[Ah, yes.]

Shuri still moved on but, was still not convinced after looking at the back of Hihiro in the distance.

[So, what is your target ladies?]

[Ahaha, it's like what Okamura-chi is doing. We need to gather as much seafood as possible, ya.]

[Hmm~ is that so. To gather sea food is it?]

[And that's why this time we've come prepared.]

Both Shinobu and Shuri are dressed in two-pieced swimsuits. While Shinobu was wearing a swimsuit with purple and white boarder and her bottom was a short pant that overall complemented her,

Shuri had an orange top witch only covered her breasts. Every time she moved, her breasts would go up and down with *PrunPrun* which could only be expected.

[As expected, I feel like I've lost as a woman...]

Jiiii~ As Shinobu starred, only more anger grew inside. Finding no other outlet, she was forced to sigh quite a few times.

[... Look, look, all the soldiers are also looking at the women who were so gorgeously dressed... no rather towards Shuri... or rather at her chest.]

Shuri shyly tried to hide her chest with her arms but indeed all the soldiers sight had been concentrated towards her chest. Looking very intensely at the chest which was moving around.

It would certainly be unavoidable for me to avoid their consciousness when such a huge chest which could murder people just from the looks moved. These breasts could be considered the symbol of a woman; or perhaps, all women.

TLN: wtf?

EN: Don't look to me for answers, I am just as confused as well.
For absolute clarity: nobody says this.

[Ukiki! Certainly Shuri-chan has quite the huge chest!]

[MO! Ten-san, please stop saying such embarrassing things!]

Shinobu and Ten continued to laugh while Shuri screamed with face full of embarrassment.

[Well, I guess we should put away the topic of Shuri's huge boobs and move quickly.]

[Mo! Stop talking about them already, Shinobu-san!]

After complaining about it a while, Shuri and the two came out to the sea.

=====

At the same time, Nikki and Camus were already diving. A beautiful sight unfolded before their eyes.

In the crystal clear blue sea, schools of fish and large sections of seaweed were clearly visible. The sand on the seabed is like glass, reflecting light while the plants were waving in the sea.

It looked almost like an illusion. Such a perfect scenery shouldn't exist right? Both Nikki and Camus were fascinated by the sight.

Then Nikki suddenly started to chase a school of fish which passed by their eyes.

(...Where are you going?)

Needless to say, Nikki was currently unreachable. Her mind was filled with fun, enjoying this moment. A smile gleefully appearing onto her face.

Probably the tensions from before were already forgotten. The child side of her took over.

Camus, who saw this couldn't let this slide, he chased after her and slightly tapped on her shoulders.

[Hmmm? *garble garble*]

Nikki turned back and spoke something, but nothing could be understood at all. Her face suddenly started to turn blue and started to head toward to sea's surface, after losing all her breath.

Camus looked down and he could see a curious place surrounded by seaweed.

(....Found it)

An Iroboshi shellfish could only be found on the seafloor. Hiroyuki said that they could be found in colors of red, blue, and yellow

while being scattered randomly across the seafloor.

Nikki came back while Camus was looking at them. He pointed them out to her with his fingers, to which Nikki was impressed and let out an “OO~” and goes towards the shellfish while bubbling.

Camus also went after Nikki, but then something suddenly moved in Camus’s periphery. It moved quickly towards Nikki’s feet. Camus quickly arrived near Nikki.

Shakin! Camus quickly drew his sword.

Camus sliced something that seemed to have aimed towards Nikki. Noticing what’s happening, Nikki stopped.

The seaweed unexpectedly grew long enough, unlike previously to latch onto Nikki. There was no need for the seaweed to grow so much in an instant. Camus confirmed that the thing that he

had slashed was the seaweed.

(I did hear from Hiiro that the seaweed here is cannibalistic.)

He did say that while he was explaining about the Iroboroshi Shellfish. That around the shellfish was carnivorous seaweed that would consume those unprepared.

Of course, Nikki should have paid more attention to Hiiro's words. But, as soon as she found the objective, she had completely forgotten about the danger and immediately jumped out to it.

Camus said, "Be careful!" through his eyes, while Nikki said *Bubble bubble* it was probably her apologizing "I'm Sorry!", but if she exhaled anymore there wouldn't be anymore air left. So she kept quiet.

Hiiro had asked Camus to take care of Nikki. Therefore, there was a need for Camus to make sure that Nikki does not do anything unreasonable.

(Looking at this... Hm.)

Saying so, Nikki grabbed the seaweed that was stuck to her legs. However, the other seaweed around her immediately started to grow and wrap around her.

[BaBoo!?!]

The seaweed seemed to be able to stretch like rubber and could not easily be cut off. It may have been bad for Nikki if she did not have a knife.

Camus cut off the seaweed which was wrapping around Nikki with his duel sword. However, it was also difficult for Camus. Nikki immediately headed towards the sea surface while putting her hands on her mouth bubbling as before.

Camus also headed to the surface.

[Puha! Ca-Camus-dono!]

[...What?]

[P- Please forgive me, im really sorry about that...]

Nikki deeply regretted that she caught by the seaweed twice. Camus shook his head sideways with no expression visible on his face.

[N... It's alright. The two of us... let's do our best?]

[Y-Yes of course desuzo!]

Nikki immediately broke away her depressed face. The two then decided on how to defeat the seaweed and get the Shellfish.

Chapter 284 – Hunting

After setting up their plans, Camus and Nikki dived towards the bottom of the sea again. In addition, with exchanging nods as a signal, they headed for the Iroboshi shell enclosed by their “Protector”, the Cannibal seaweeds.

As if it had detected his presence, the seaweed expanded in size to stop the invader, but Camus only sliced them with his black sword. However, because of its huge numbers, in addition to being at the bottom of the sea, which had restricted his movements, the expanding seaweeds constricted him quickly.

Camus did not panic and instead, he narrowed his eyes sharply. Suddenly, the ground around the seaweed suddenly rose up.

(The seabed here is made up of sand. Which means...this is also my domain!)

He manipulated the sand at the bottom of the sea floor, trying to keep the seaweed away from the Iroboshi Shell.

(Ku.....it is.....heavy!)

Although he had manipulated sand a lot of times, this is the first time for Camus to manipulate it underwater. So it was out of his expectations that wet sand was so difficult to handle.

Still not giving up despite his situation, Camus tried to lift the sand together with the seaweed. With this, the identity of the cannibal seaweed became clear.

(So this is.....its body)

What appeared from the sand was a long snake-like demon

with seaweed growing on its body. In actuality, the cannibal seaweed was a type of seaweed cobra: a snake burying itself underground, with seaweed growing on its body – the only part visible on the surface.

Feeding by entrapping its prey with its seaweeds, then consuming it with several mouths on the surface of its body, this demon has surrounded the Iroboshi shell's proximity, concealing its long body within, and lying in wait for an unfortunate prey.

However, at this moment, the demon had its camouflage revealed, glaring at Camus while sticking out its snake-like tongue. Then, moving its long body in a zigzag fashion, it rushed forward.

Camus did not move despite seeing its action. It was not because of the seaweed wrapping around its legs, but it was as if he was convinced of something.....

Then, a small shadow moved at the corner of his vision.

“Babu-benn!!”

It was Nikki. She, who appeared suddenly from the unknown, brandished her fist, as if pushing up the body of the cobra from the bottom.

At that moment, a sound of something similar to an explosion occurred and with it, the body of the cobra rose up. This was Nikki’s signature move – 《Bakuken》(Blast Fist). Focusing mana on the fist, then attacking by triggering a mana explosion as soon as the opponent got hit by the attack.

The power is dependent to the amount of mana being poured in, but seeing the huge body of the seaweed cobra being thrown up by the impact, you can say that it has a considerable amount of power within.

Nikki’s attack caused the seaweed cobra to flinch. In addition, it also caused the seaweeds restraining Camus to loosen, giving him a chance to escape, thus he removed the bindings with his sword.

Camus then quickly filled up the space between him and the

snake, slashing through the incoming seaweeds in his way, till his blade touched that long body.

Blood oozed out instantly. However, its hardness exceeded his expectations, as the blade did not make it through.

Because of that, the seaweed cobra was now watching Camus' every move, but Nikki's attacks continued.

Nikki moved her tiny body dexterously, dodging the seaweeds, and then started to put power in her right fist. In spite of the distance between them, Nikki extended her fist towards the seaweed cobra.

Then, from her fist, a mass of magic power was discharged, hitting the body of the snake demon.

DOGANN!

A massive explosion occurred once again. The seaweed cobra,

unable to withstand the overwhelming pain, screamed miserably and ran away from the spot.

Upon realizing what happened, they glanced at each other, then gave nods with each other in assent. Nikki smiled and Camus made a V-sign.

The two were able to remove the nuisance and brought various Iroboshi Shells to the shore. Apart from being colorful, they were sparkling and shining, like jewels.

“Red, blue, yellow, green, white. Have we got all of them?”

“Nnn.....Probably.”

Nikki and Camus nodded in satisfaction upon watching a lot of

shells lined up on the beach.

“Oooh～, with this, master will truly praise us desuzo!”

“.....looking forward.”

“Certainly, desuzo!”

The two then made a broad smile on their faces, as if the fact that they would be praised became fixed.

“The strategy went well.”

“Yes desuzo! This was also thanks to Camus!”

Upon hearing the true identity of the cannibal seaweed from

Hihiro, in order to pull out the main body beforehand, Camus decided to be the bait. Then, he would manipulate the sand at the bottom of the sea to reveal the seaweed cobra. It was a superb trick done well.

Nikki would be lurking between the rocks at the bottom of the sea, waiting for an opportunity to strike. And thanks to the demon's cautious and cowardly demeanor, even though they did not defeat it, at least they made it panic and run away.

Of course, Camus swung his sword with the intent of trying to kill the enemy, but as expected of a demon of the Azazel Sea, its defense was not half-baked either.

Still, because the strategy went well, it was a success more or less.

“Even so, that move.....amazing.”

“Ehehe～, you’re making me blush desuzo～.”

“No, really amazing. Truly.”

“Thank you desuzo! That was 《Bakuken▪Two-style》desuzo!”

Nikki puffed her chest proudly with a smile on her face.

“.....only wait for now.”

“That’s right! Uu～ Well, I guess master won’t come back soon, would he?”

Waiting for Hiroya whom they yearned for mutually, they lay with the Iroboshi shells on their backs.

The time when Nikki and Camus had finished their duties, Hiroya had already finished one task. He was now looking down at an octopus demon, the Count Octopus, which was now floating alone at the sea above.

It was obviously dead. Moreover, not just being dead, there was a clean hole in the big head of the Count Octopus. You can see from a glance that this was the cause that had taken its life.

“.....Fuu, it went well somehow, but I’m still lacking in concentration.”

With blots of sweat in his forehead, Hiroya gave out a sigh,

feeling weak from the exhaustion.

“Well, it was good to have a target to try it out. Furthermore, a big one at that.”

After observing the unmoving Count Octopus for a while, Hihiro headed back to the surface where the Happiness Shark would resurface again.

After waiting for a long while however, there was still no response, so Hihiro decided to dive below the sea for himself.

The bottom of the sea is a place where light couldn't reach. Jet black darkness spread before one's eyes, as if it could totally lead you anywhere... even to hell itself.

Just how far will this go? Beyond this may be creatures and worlds I haven't seen before, or perhaps there may be a world where “Spirits” and “Fairies” live.

If so, then it is indeed not so simple to go in and out that easily.

The deep sea is difficult for any normal being to live in.

For a being of the deep sea like the Happiness Shark, even Hiroyuki was moved by its courageous behavior, to the point of wanting to protect it from those who will try to prey on it.

Is the deep sea really a deep sea? Is it somewhat protected by the environment? But to be alive for many years, moreover in a place where one wouldn't even doubt if there is a ferocious demon in here, the Happiness Shark should have adapted to the environment somehow or other.

(There is a theory that eggs cannot tolerate the pressure of the deep sea, so they come up above when they are about to lay their eggs. Then, why does it not come up? Have they become extinct? Or has the environment changed?)

As these unanswered questions remained in his mind while drifting in the sea, he felt a faint presence in the darkness.

There are many of them, Hiiro held his breath and watched attentively.

(.....Here it comes!)

A pinkish element rose out on the surface of the sea, heading towards Hiiro. They said Happiness Sharks act in groups; however, he could see tens of them, even more.

Jade colored horn growing on its heads. Just to make sure, Hiiro wrote 『Spy』 (『隠密』) on himself, then hid behind the rocks. And because it felt painful to breathe because of that, he simultaneously wrote 『Breathable』 (『呼吸可』) after. Then, a bubble was created, covering his entire head. It seems that in this bubble, he was able to breathe freely. With this, it was not necessary for him to resurface just to replenish his oxygen anymore.

Just when he had caught his breath, the school of Happiness Sharks rose all at once to the surface of the sea. One of them was

bigger than the rest. According to Musun who was fearing for their extinction because of indiscriminate hunting, he must catch only one – and the biggest of all among them.

There seemed to be no existence unifying them like an alpha of the pack, as everyone acted separately. Among them, the biggest Happiness Shark was just above Hihiro, all alone.

Its size is about three to four times the size of Hihiro. Because it is a demon that is said to be edible in all corners, teeth and all, just imagining the appearance of the cuisine made him salivate already.

(Sorry bud, allow me to hunt you!)

But as if detecting his killing intent, the Happiness Shark turned his face, even though he still had his 『Spy』 (『隠密』) activated.

Then, it swam back to the deep sea in order to escape

immediately. The other Happiness Sharks followed suit, as if becoming aware of the existence of Hiroyuki, as they swam the same way.

(Tch, its crisis perception ability is far too great!)

The fighting power of the Happiness Sharks are not that great. Nevertheless, what covered this ability is their extraordinary sense of danger, and due to this, they can continue to grow in this sea of peril.

Hiroyuki tried to approach by installing the word 『Acceleration』 (『加速』), but the Happiness Shark was still faster. Water is its element, after all.

With the way things are going, I will return empty-handed, even though I have come to the point of meeting them with all that effort.

(I will not allow you to escape!)

Hihiro wrote the word 『Swap』 (『交代』), and exchanged positions with the Happiness Shark trying to escape into the deep sea.

Having its scenery suddenly changed, the shark seemed to be confused and stopped moving. It wondered why Hihiro who was supposed to be behind is now in front of it.

(You are certainly fast, but with this.....)

As soon as he saw his target stopping its movements, Hihiro moved his index finger. However, the Happiness Shark, upon seeing the situation, shook his body and ran away from the spot in tremendous speed.

Hihiro then launched the words 『Ice Wall』 (『氷壁』) at the Happiness Shark's destination and activated it. Suddenly, a thick ice wall was created before the opponent's eyes, and the shark violently crashed into the wall.

Although a considerable amount of water was used to make the wall, seeing the tremendous crack running through it, anyone would know that the rushing power of the opponent was quite intense.

However, after receiving all that recoil, the happiness shark stopped its movement, then floated to the surface as it was. Right – it had lost consciousness.

(Alright, my work here is done.)

With this, I got what I wanted, as Hihiro loosened his cheeks to follow the resurfacing Happiness Shark.

But as he tried to touch the body of the Happiness Shark which rose up first, he wasn't able to understand what happened the following instant.

That's because, all of a sudden, the Happiness Shark which should have been in front of him suddenly disappeared.

(W-what the!?)

Hiiro swam back up the sea in a hurry, causing the bubble covering his head to burst and disappear. Rather than worrying about such things, he desperately looked for his objective. However, the existence of the Happiness Shark was nowhere to be found in the vicinity.

“Where.....where could that thing have gone?”

While looking down at the sea from above the sky unable to translate what happened, Hiiro was covered by a shadow. It was not a cloud; Hiiro who judged that something was in the sky, turned his gaze quickly.

From there, sandwiching the Happiness Shark from a while ago in its beak, was an enormous black swan. Moreover, if you look closely from the black swan's back, a person wearing black

clothes was staring down at Hihiro.

Chapter 285 – The Black Swan and the Lad

“That black robe..... 《Matar▪Deus》?”

Looking at the person in a black robe riding on the back of the black swan, Hihiro brooded over the fact that the black robed guy looked very similar to that Matar▪Deus he had seen before.

Even if it was the subordinate of that predecessor demon lord or not, there was one thing for sure: he or she had gotten something he needs to pursue right now.

“Oi, give it back.”

Yes, it was the Happiness Shark sandwiched between the beaks of the black swan. It was the prey that Hihiro had supposedly caught. However, in an instant, when he was about to get it, it was snatched like a hyena.

However, the next moment, the black bird gulped the Happiness Shark in one go, as if it had completely ignored the words of Hiiro.

“Wha-!? How dare you!”

Hiiro drew his sword and flew towards the black swan in reflex. He tried to slash that long neck with his sword, but it only cut through air.

He thought that he got it, but he realized it was only an afterimage. The other party's speed was more than he expected. Hiiro looked back, and upon seeing the image of the black bird who had turned its back against him as fast as lightning, he then

casted 『Acceleration』to enhance his speed dramatically.

Thus, with that intense speed, he finally caught up to the black swan. The black swan tried to move away, but Hiroyuki followed suit as well.

“.....!!!?”

Hiroyuki glanced at the black swan that was surprised by his ability to catch up.

“Getting away, huh.”

Hihiro cut down the distance with his opponent, and then swung his sword. At that moment, only black feathers were cut as they danced the sky.

It has slipped before his eyes again.

(Tch, so fast!)

That movement, it seems that it wasn't completely serious until now. Making Hyun Hyun Hyun Hyun sounds as if cutting the wind, it was leaving a lot of afterimages by moving around.

“...making fun of me, eh?”

Hiiro drew a deep breath, then,

『Hyper acceleration』

he wrote and then activated. At that moment, Hiiro disappeared from that spot. Hiiro’s eyes were now quick enough to anticipate through the real one among the afterimages. Then towards that real body, with a tremendous speed,

“Haaaaaaaaaaa!”

he swung down the 《Absolute Sword・Zangeki》with all his strength. He thought he had caught it this time, but

KIIIN!

日色の刀は同じ材質の何かに阻まれたような音を響かせた。日色の攻撃を受け止めたのは黒鳥ではなく、その背にいた黒衣の人物だった。

Hihiro's sword let out a sound as if it had been blocked with something of the same material. It was not the black swan who took the attack, but the black robed person who was riding behind it.

(...that katana!?)

It was the sword the other party had. However, unlike Zangeki with a clear blade, the opponent's blade was reddish-black in color.

“.....Fuaaa〜”

Though Hiiro was surprised at the sword, he was even more so at that person's attitude. He seemed to have prevented Hiiro's

attack with one hand, but more than that, it seems he was in a drowsy state, seeing by that yawn.

(MY attack...to be blocked like this!?)

Furthermore, he wasn't even perturbed at all. He felt tremendous power from within.

“.....Huh? You.....who are you?”

...Huh? What is this fellow saying? Why are you looking at the other party you have clashed face-to-face, and ask questions like you have totally seen someone for the first time?

Judging from the voice, it seems to be a man, then the said man yawned again.

“...Well, never mind. By the way, have you finished eating?”

Apparently, he was asking the black swan, which then replied with a Kiii.

“Is that so? Then let’s go home. Whoopsie daisy.”

Just by waving his arms lightly, Hiiro was out-pushed and was blown off behind.

(t-that guy.....what power!?)

Hiiro was amazed by the opponent who threw with ease like a fly being swatted. Moved by curiosity, he tried to examine the opponent’s 《Status》 with 『Pry』(『司見』).

(.....it's similar to that time, huh)

Yes, it was similar to the first time when he encountered Avoros. He also tried to『Pry』at that time, but the effect of 『Pry』 did not work at all.

However, unlike the man whom he could not examine his strength, the 《Status》 of the black swan was reflected in Hiiro's eyes instead.

And after looking at its race, he was stunned wide eyed to see.....

(Isn't this guy.....?)

But as he compared the 《Status》of the black swan to what's in his mind, the said creature started to move.

“Wait, Wait!”

“.....Eh?”

The man, hearing his voice turned around.

“What?”

“What’s wrong with you? Taking my spoils just like that, You want to get punished?!”

“.....Eh? Is that so? Did you really took it?”

The man spoke, as if talking to the black bird. He didn't seem to grasp the whole story. Was he really sleeping at that time? Hiiro thought.

(That means, he blocked my attack while he was still asleep?)

It was truly an incredible feat. Although Hiiro was not in full power, it is surprising to prevent an attack enhanced with the momentum of 『Hyper acceleration』 (『超加速』), moreover while being asleep, too.

“But, you see, it's your fault too, being weak enough to be snatched like that.”

“.....What did you just say?”

Hihiro felt angry at the words of the man.

“This world follows the law of survival of the fittest, you see, with the weak being the prey for the strong. Which means, if you were deprived of your meal by this child, it is either you are careless, or you are weak.”

“

“It is the nature of the world to become fatal with every life. So give up. What I can only say is, try your very best next time?”

“You... are you making fun of me?”

“Making fun of you? Uhmm... did I say something wrong?”

Hihiro felt more irritated with the man's way of talking.

“...You, are you a companion of that Template Demon Lord?”

“Tempure?”

“《Matar • Deus》, I mean.”

“Un, that's right. What about it?”

The black swan turned its head, facing the man. Perhaps it understood the conversation as well.

“Hmmm? What’s your name?”

“Not telling you.”

“Ah, is that so? Well, I don’t mind.”

Is he really passing it just like that? Hiroyuki doubted in his mind.

“But this is unusual. It seems this child is interested in you, aren’t you quite popular?”

“Quite... you say? Then why don’t you try it for yourself!”

With the 『Hyper acceleration』still in effect, Hiiro tried his extreme-speed slash with Zangeki for the second time. The other party, however, parried every hit with his dark red blade without any difficulty.

“...Heee, Quite a good sword you have here. Kinda feels the same as mine?”

Hiiro quickly disappeared from his spot, then appeared behind the man. But as he tried his chance to pierce his sword in that gap,

“That shield, repel all creation of the Five Blues.”

Hiiro surely heard the man saying something at that time. The next moment, Hiiro, who was in the rear, blew away as if something repelled him.

“Tch!”

Still analyzing what happened to him, Hiiro fixed his gaze upon the man. Around him, a blue barrier similar to Hiiro’s when he

used the character 『Defense』, which created a magical wall, covered his surroundings.

“Un, as this child has said, huh. Let me try for a moment.”

After confirming something, that man gave a glare.

“Uhm, I was thinking, how are you flying? Humans can fly now?”

The man gave off an unique atmosphere, but Hiiro of course didn't answer the question.

“Though humans can use magic to fly too..... hn? Perhaps, is it that type of magic?”

The man observed Hiiro further. However, he drooped down his shoulders, as if he was disappointed.

“Well, whatever. Well then.....”

He then put his hand at his bosom, as if searching for something in his clothes. Hihiro, unknown what he would do, remained cautious. The next thing, the man took out a red ball about the size of a Ping-Pong ball.

(What is.....?)

Hihiro took a stance, suspicious at the object.

“It’s time to go home.”

After that, the man threw the ball high in the sky. Then, as if it had activated, the ball dispersed, and red particles poured down like rain.

Suddenly, Hiroyuki noticed that the magical power released by his body had disappeared. At the same time, the sensation of floating from him disappeared, and Hiroyuki fell on to the sea.

“What the-!?”

And when he saw the man, he was waving his hands, making a bye-bye gesture.

(T-this is the same as the Magic Nullifying Existence!)

As he thought so, he fell into the sea, making a large splash.

“Puha!”

As soon as he came to the surface, flustered, he scowled at the black swan still in the sky above. He tried to fly again using magic, but then again, he was unable to use it at all.

Looking closely at the surroundings, red particles were still all over the place. Despite feeling bitter about it, Hiroyuki who lost his means to chance could only glare at the direction where the figure of the black swan flew.

Suddenly, the black bird stopped its movements, then turned back, heading towards the place where Hiroyuki was.

(.....What the?)

Holding his sword tightly, Hiroyuki thought he came to administer the coup de grace onto him. However, the black bird stopped at a certain distance away from Hiroyuki.

“You. You’re quite an interesting one.”

The man then took off his hood. Then, there stood a face of a boy with droopy eyes, matching with his unkempt gray hair. He was about the same age as Hihiro.

“I am Noah, Noah Black. This child is Sue. Well, remembering it or not is up to you.”

Then why did you bother for a self-introduction in the first place?

“Though I wish I could get along well with people having the same kind of sword, well, that was unreasonable of me.....”

“What did you just say?”

“Nn? Ummm, What are we talking about again?”

“Don’t return my question!”

“Ah! Right, right. I was just a little bit interested in you so I said my name. You don’t have to worry about it.”

iro felt that his words were just passing through his ears. However, one thing is for sure – he robbed Hihiro of his pleasure. Giving off a sharp look, he replied,

“Hihiro. Hihiro Okamura.”

“Well, even if you tell me, I have no confidence to remember it.”

“You’d better. For this guy will be the one who will deprive you of your pleasure by all means.”

However, Noah, on the other hand, could only stare blankly and yawn as if it was not his business.

“Then amuse me more on our next meeting. It’s too boring if you cannot use magic from the get-go.”

As he floated in the sea, Hiiro grinded his teeth tightly. It is true that now there is no way he could defeat opponents floating in the sky in the state where magic became unusable.

“Now then, I am already shleepy.....*Fuaaaah~, let’s go.”

The black swan soared upwards, carrying the sleeping Noah on its back. And just like that, they left Hiiro at the speed of a breeze.

(.....《Matar▪Deus》.....what a clown.)

The voltage of Hihiro's anger obviously increased that day.

Chapter 286 – Bitterness of Defeat

[Looks like it's over already]

Ten said while looking at Hiiro who was putting up a long face in the sea

[Wh-what are you trying to say....?]

Shinobu replied to Ten while she and Shuri looked at Hiiro's figure who was fighting in the sky so far and was beaten in the confrontation.

[Is it really fine if you don't go over?]

Shuri asked Ten who was a contracted [Spirit] of Hihiro, but Ten shook his head.

[Yeah it's fine, but I almost thought that Hihiro was going to lose his life over there.]

[Eh? There is no way that it could happen right?]

Shinobu doubted those words as if it was natural.

[Yeah. That's because there was no killing intent from the opponent's gaze]

[Killing intent.....that's not possible.....and moreover, Okamura-chi is]

[E-EH]

Shuri's words overlapped with Shinobu's. Anybody would feel the same when they look at the two of them fighting at such a tremendous speed while swinging their swords.

[Hihiro looks like he's giving it his all but his opponent looks as if he is playing with him]

[Th-that i-is playing?]

Shinobu was going "OMG". Clearly, to her, both of them

fighting at quite the speed was already absurd but her sense of reality was overturned when she was told that the opponent was playing around.

[Anyways, if that guy was to really get serious then I would also head there]

[....tet-chi, you know how to swim?]

[It's unnecessary to do so.if I felt like it, I could teleport to where Hihiro is instantly.]

[Woah~ ten-san your really amazing]

[Ukikiki~ Praise me more~]

Ten stretched out his chest to boast.

[That's fine, but to fight with Okamura-chi as if playing around, who is that person ya?]

[Somehow, he is one of Matar Deus]

[Th-that means they are ones who have held Taishi and gang captive?]

Shinobu and Shuri were surprised.

[Yeah, it seems they are the ones.]

Ten was connected to the “Katana Zangeki” and so, he could see and hear what Hiroyuki could with the sword. And moreover, he

could quickly teleport to the place where the sword is located, so he would have headed over to Hiiro if it really did get dangerous.

But once he saw the other party, and since he couldn't feel any killing intent or murderous aura from the other party, Ten left it alone. As the opponent said, 'they were only here for a simple meal.'

Ten was surprised because even with Hiiro's word magic {Super Acceleration} it was still treated as a joke by the opponent, and apparently, the opponent even seemed to have other magical tools and strange magic potions.

Especially that Red Ball. It seemed to be some kind of tool which had the effect of [Magic nullification], or something similar to that spell.

Ten was able to analyze the speed and strength of the opponent through his sword, but it was indeed true that no magic could be used, and hence Hiiro dropped from the sky to the sea, if the opponent was also able to fight in the sky then it would have been troublesome.

Hiiro did have some methods to counter these tools, but after fighting with the Count Octopus, as well as diving deep into the sea to find the happiness shark had reduced quite a bit of Hiiro's strength and magic, and even if Hiiro did use it then it wouldn't have had a good outcome.

And since Hiiro also realized this, he did not rush to call Ten or did he use magic like on the Count octopus.

It is as Ten said, there was no killing intent from the other party.

(But even so, for the enemy to have a person like that on their side.....)

Ten remembered the enemies who disappeared into the sky.

(But, seriously you have no idea what kind of a provocation you have just made)

Ten looked at Hiirou, who was swimming towards him and shrugged his shoulders.

(Hihiro was previously not that interested with《Matar Deus》but, with what happened this time I really can't say. If Hihiro wants to get really serious about this, then even I can't do anything about it, I really don't know what might happen.). That's what I honestly Thought, but even so, I was really looking forward to the day we would go against the them.

「Well, it looks like Hihiro lost a Point this time.」

「Eh? what just happened?」

Shinobu who couldn't understand what just happened asked Ten,

「The Predecessor Demon Lord is in for a lot of grief is what happened.」

Ten understood that there was nothing more troubling than making Hiiro into their enemy.

「.....hey, what happened tet-chi?」

「Hmm? Nothing Much, I just feel sorry for the Person who just angered the《All Round Specialist》」

「All Round? what is that?」

「.....i don't know as well?」

Shinobu and Juri inclined their neck while looking at each other while in thought.

After swimming a considerable distance with his own Swimming skills, the feeling of his Magical powers which was sealed, slowly revived.

Soon after Hihiro wrote the character『Flight』onto himself and flew up from the sea and returned to the Beach.

Drip Drip water trinkled onto the beach from his clothes. And he finally arrived at the beach and stepped on the sand with his foot while his clothes were sufficiently soaked and dripping, causing Hihiro to look displeased at himself.

「Shishouoooo!」(Masterrrrr!!!)

Nikki rushes over with an anxious expression.

Next to Nikki was Camus who also looked over at Hiiro with concern.

The two must have also seen the battle that took place above.

Hiiro writes a word onto his clothes『Dry』which cause all the moisture in his clothes to be swept away, Cleaning him.

Since there were no wounds, there was no pain, but the Mental pain affected him quite a bit.

「Ma-Master.....」

Nikki kept Mum not knowing whether to speak up or not looking at Hihiro. But Camus came over to Hihiro's side,

「Fine? Hihiro?」

「Ah?.....well」

Although Hihiro's response was blurry, he did respond, to which Nikki.

「Ma-Master.....」

Nikki looked up at him, with eyes like a puppy which had been thrown away. Unintentionally Hihiro let out a glare causing Nikki to scowl and turn timid, but a hand reached out towards Nikki's head while Hihiro closed his eyes and finally let out a breath.

Hihiro did not pat Nikki's head but stroked it, somehow he felt that this would be the best way to convey his thoughts.

「Ma-master?」

A sense of relief was included in her tone.

She thought this was how it had always been.

「Don't worry.Next time it will be my win.」

Nikki who had been timid and speechless up until now finally cracks and an expression of spring was reflected on her face as if a flower was in full bloom

「Hai-desuzo!」

She replied joyfully.

Hiiro removed his hand from Nikki's head, causing her to let out a disappointing「ah.....」, but soon after Nikki smiled again.

「Master! As Master Instructed, we gathered a whole lot of Iroboshi Shellfish-desuzo! 」

There was a huge pile of Colourful Star-Shaped Shellfish.

「Good job, You guys did well」

Nikki and Camus who were praised felt really pleased.

「My Disciple and Subordinate did so well while I.....che」

He felt angry at his own shortcomings.

The one who escaped Noah Black.

Remembering his figure, he felt anger surging within himself.

But no matter how many times he remembers, it wouldn't be helpful.

His failure was Undeniably True.

With all that rampage, the Happiness Shark would definitely not show up again.

Feeling sorry for Mosun, he made up his mind that he would definitely catch it when the opportunity arrives and ask Mosun to cook it for him.

Ten walks towards Hiroy while smirking.

「Ooo Hiroy, {Nigger} you got Played.」(TL Note: I had to do it.)

「Enough Talking Monkey」

「ukiki! but the debt will definitely be returned right?」

「Of course. That Drooping eyes, and《Matar Deus》. There is a score to be settled」

Probably, if Eveam were to hear those words she would be delighted while waving her hands eagerly, but even so, Hiroyuki never had the thought of borrowing the power of the Demons.

He had made up his mind, that he would personally take care of his anger and stress on every individual.

Ten was worried about the two and therefore continued to instruct them, Shinobu and gang which turned out very well, and the familiarity between them and the soldiers deepened, and the Herb Corps were now willing to trust the two.

As everyone dived into the ocean, Shinobu and Shuri seemed to have the ability to search for the target, which even soldiers found helpful.

A large variety of fishes and shellfishes which were tall as the mountains were put in a large net. Loading all of them into the Sky Horse Carriage, Hiiro and gang returned to the 【Demon Country Xaous】.

After returning to 【Xaous】Shublarz received the report, after looking through the report Shublarz told Eveam about Shinobu and gang's achievements and asked her to rewards the two, the

two of them received a Medal which further boosted the Morale of the soldiers

Although the eyes of the soldiers towards the two changed a little, it was still quite far from earning their trust after just one time.

Even so, the two did not feel down but they were actually pleased with the results, they were determined to work more diligently in the future.

In the meantime, the report also came in about Hihiro failing in his task, but most of the people ignored this and refused to believe it. There was just something different about Hihiro and therefore they believed that there was a reason for it and made up their own reasons selfishly.

Shinobu and gang were heaving a sigh, thinking that this was the difference between Heroes of a country and Heroes of an Enemy country, but Nikki who was nearby, was laughing wryly.

Listening to report that Hihiro had failed in his task, it was Liliyn and Eveam who choked.

They believed that they had to ask him about the whole story and hear the details about it.

「I have no Obligation to speak」

As a result of being shut away coldly, they had no choice but to ask someone who knew what happened without any choice.

And the one who they found to learn about the details was.....

「At that time Hiiro was, just playing around~~」

It was Ten, Hiiro's contracted Spirit who was earlier with Hiiro.

Ten recited the details as if it was really happening in front of their eyes.

The place where this event was taking place was unexpectedly in the Guest room, and Hiiro was unexpectedly was at a place where Camus was.

It was placed where the sand was abundant, it was a desert.

That right, this was Camus's Hometown 【Raohrb Desert】.

The two of them came here with a purpose, Camus and Hihiro headed to a place where the 【Asuras】lived.

The entire 【Asura Tribe】were surprised by their visit including Liliyn Old friend Sivan by the Camus and Hihiro's Visit.

Moreover, the【Asura Tribe】was overjoyed that their Savior Hihiro had returned and where completely in a celebratory Mood.

The children whose wounds were healed by Hiroyuki earlier took the initiative and made a welcoming party.

Although it was mostly Fruits, the fruits prepared were really delicious.

「By the way, why did you come all the way here for?」

When Sivan asked Hiroyuki like that,

「This is the best place to train」

「Train?」

「aaa, This place is the best for Nitoryuu to train, and there is no chance of being spied on by anyone」

That's right, There will be little damage to the surrounding even if one were to go on a rampage here, and also Camus, who is a training partner can also have no worries and rampage without restraints. Other than that, there are no travelers around here and the chance of being disturbed while training is very unlikely.

「Hoho, You are already quite strong, are you still trying to get stronger」

「.....it's because I don't want to die.」

Hihiro remembered the encounter with Noah the other day.

At that time, Noah was not even serious, if he was then Hihiro wouldn't be alive right now.

Hihiro had naturally not given his all the other day, but he still felt that Noah was still leagues above.

Moreover, that Black swan....

(If 《Status》was correct then it is the same as one of those.....)

Thinking about someone, his eyes turned sharp.

Sivan who saw his eyes,

「fumu, apparently there is still a long way to go.」

「Hmm, Camus 」(Sivan)

「Yes?」

「Fully lend your powers」

「.....that means..」

Camus Nodded his head intently.

「Then let's go on Nitoryuu」

「Yes」

The two disappeared further into the desert

Chapter 287 – The World that Began to Move

There was a Huge Stonewall with an Exotic Blue Gem which shone palely on the wall.

It was surrounded by a rock wall, and the land around was in tatters and a spatial rend which was slowly spreading.

And on the ground was magic formation(Circle), and in the middle of that magic formation was a candle whose light could not go past the magic formation.

The scene looked like a ritual.

And a single person was standing in the darkness as if waiting

for something while he stood next to the gem embedded in the wall.

As if noticing something, the person looked in the direction of the gem.

piki.....piki.....

A small crack runs through the Stonewall.

and soon many more cracks ran through the stone.

and.....

pariiiiiiinnn!

The Stonewall was crushed into pieces, and the fragments slowly fall onto the magic formation.

But what fell onto the magic formation was not the fragments of the wall.

Something fell exactly onto the middle of the magic formation and stood up, and then started walking in the direction of the person who was looking in its direction.

The figure slowly turned into that of a Person.

「.....Good Morning.....Your majesty」

It was a Blonde kid.

The man who spoke to him saw that there was not a single thread on his body and puts something similar to a robe onto his body.

The boy continues on his way barefoot with a *petapeta*. Following behind was the other person.

On his way was another person fully clothed in black, the boy stops in front of that person, and a puddle suddenly opens up on the ground.

And soon the three people slowly sunk as if they were being sucked into the puddle.

In the Royal Castle of Humans,【Victorias】, a line of people was standing in front of the throne.

Although all of them were dressed in black, their hoods were uncovered, and all their respective faces were visible.

Everyone got down on one knee in salute.

Then suddenly a puddle of water appears in their midst, and slowly three people rise up from it.

The boy who had Blonde hair appeared gently and gracefully, and slowly headed towards the throne, and slowly sat on the throne while raising his mouth slowly.

「Everyone, Good Morning」

The name of the Boy was Avoros Gran Early Evening.

He was the older brother of the Current Demon Lord Eveam, now the King of【Victorias】after he took over.

As he had used the Sword【Sacrifice】to exert his power while using his life force as fuel in order to obtain the 【Heart/Nucleus of the First Demon Lord】that was hidden within the Sanjummon Cave in the Demon Continent, which caused him to suffer a certain amount of Backlash and therefore was under recovery.

「Your Majesty! We were waiting for your Awakening!」

A young girl cries out with a joyful expression on her face who stood among the people who were enclosed in black clothes.

「Hey Kainabi, Sorry to have worried you. But it's fine now.」

「Eh, your majesty.....」

Avoros smiled at Kainabi, and then looked around at the people who were dressed in black clothes in front of him.

「Then, shall we start?」

One month after Avoros lost consciousness, the world was starting to move again.

Shortly before Avoros Woke up, Hiiro was in the【Raobu Desert】and was currently training with Camus and Nikki.

About a Month ago, Hiiro and Camus came here for train, but after a while returned to the 【Demon Country Xaos】, Nikki who heard the talk about training immediately jumped to train along. Although Liliyn also tags along occasionally to kill time, but since the climate was extremely troublesome along with the location of the desert stopped coming due to her skin.

For approximately One month, the three of them trained together.

「《Explosion Fist》!」

Nikki who was on the sand, thrust her hand from the front.

To which Hihiro turned around slightly and dodged it and immediately caught up behind Nikki, and grabbed her clothes.

「Eh nooooo!?!」

And flung her into the distance. However, in the next moment,

sands below his feet started to move up and crawl and started covering him from below.

Camus who was in front of Hiiro, moved his hands with dexterity.

That's right, he was manipulating the sand.

「.....Got you」

Such a murmur of Camus reaches Hiiro's Ears.

.....but, Hiiro narrowed his eyes, and spread out his arms.

A faint light starts to glow from Hiiro, His right hand radiated with blue while his left hand radiated with yellow.

Break!

Using both his hands, he clapped, but the sand which was starting to crawl on his body immediately snapped.

And Hiiro's body was gradually enveloped in a fierce, red aura.

「.....《Grand Red Deity Aura》!」

Looking at Hiiro's change in aura, Camus turns the sand around him into a fist and thrusts it towards Hiiro.

And a lump of magic with explosive strength is shot from the opposite side by Nikki,《Explosion Fist: Dual Style》towards Hiiro.

Hiiro covers his hand over the sword 《Katana: Zangeki》on his waist and pulls it out, and the 《Grand Red Aura》slowly envelops

it as well.

He shook the swords and slashed towards the 《Explosion Fist:Dual style》causing it to split into two and pass by him.

It broke into two and flew towards his left and right, which flew a little further before exploding.

That's When a hand made completely out of sand approached him from the back and thrust towards him, Hiroyuki turned the tip of the sword towards the hand made of sand, with a portion of《Red Aura》covering the tip.

「《Extreme Heat Wave Pierce》!」

The sword soon connects and collides with the hand made of Sand.

The moment the Sword stabbed into it, the sand seemed to look as if it was dyed red with Magma, and soon burst into an explosion.

And before long Hihiro's aura goes out, and moves from where he stood, he immediately appears behind Nikki and the sword in his hand is a few centimeters away from her Neck muscles and before long her consciousness is taken away.

「Niki!」

Camus screams, but Hiiro had already shifted into his next stance before nikki falls to the ground.

Hiiro appeared in front of Camus chest at a speed, which one could not be followed by the naked eye, while swinging his sword 《Zangeki》flipping Camus's black sword away in the blink of an eye and then continued to swing his sword at Camus splitting him in two.

If it hit him normally blood would have gushed out, but Camus' body divided into two turning into sand and scatters.

Hiiro breathes out「Fuu」and sheaths his sword.

At the same time, the red aura which covered his body slowly vanishes.

Camus carrying Nikki comes back with a *tokotoko*.

「Good Job.....Hihiro」

「Yeah, You seem to have further polished your sand skills to be able to create a clone」

「is that so?.....eh」

Camus smirks into a smile from the praise.

That's right, the Camus that was slashed was a clone made

from sand and was being controlled by Camus.

With this training, The sand clone made by Camus also grew to a certain extent, being able to manipulate sand to quite a degree.

「Ho?」

Nikki wakes up and starts to groan「uu~~」.

「I, I was not even able to land a single blow-desuzo.....」

She seemed to be regretting that she could not even land a blow on her master Hiiro. She seemed to be trying really hard so that she could be able to fight with her Master.

「Well, you can try harder next time」

「Yes-desuzo! I will meet the expectations of Master!」

She showed extreme enthusiasm while doing a Guts Pose.

「But still Hiiro, have you gotten better at it?」

「Well, there is still a long way to go, but I did master quite a bit of it」

The training was to practice《Grand Red Aura》.

Since he had learnt how to control it a little bit better from【Beast Country Passion】Rarshik, he had continued to train everyday.

And as a result, Hiiro was able to learn how to use《Grand Red Aura》albeit only for a short amount of time.

It was hard to say that it was perfect, but it has now become possible to handle the《Red Aura》more proficiently.

This time, Hiiro tried to defeat Nikki and Camus without using any magic but only using his《Grand Red Aura》to see if he could defeat them with it.

And as expected Camus was able to further increase his proficiency with his Sand Clone while Nikki helped him from the front, which was helpful as the sand clone needed a partner.

Although Nikki was quite vexed inside, she was still hiding a

skill.

As this was a test to determine the power of 《Grand Red Aura》 she did not choose to use it, and the timing was not right either.

「Do you still.....want to continue?」

Camus asked, but today was the third time that he had casted Sand Clone and was exhausted.

「No, let's return to【Demon Country】.

I had been moving my body quite a while recently, and so I would like to take a rest for a while and more than anything else read more books」

As Hiiro had not touched any books for a while, his withdrawal symptoms seemed to have started to appear.

He immediately wanted to return to the library at once.

The three of them decided to head back to the【Demon Country】and headed back to the Oasis where the『Asura Tribe 』lived, while greeting them a bird seemed to be flying in the air.

「.....Bird?」

Hiiro continued to stare at that bird.

The desert was not a habitat for birds.

Rather than a bird, they felt weird a discomfort coming from that bird.

It did not feel alive, rather its existence seemed to have been formed by magic.

Moreover, it was covered completely in green, and its color was quite concerning.

But there was no hostility or bad vibes coming from the Bird.

Still, they felt wariness for the existence of the bird.

「.... It's not doing anything? then lets return to『Xaos』」

The other two nod at the words of Hiiro.

However, the bird flew away after having stared at Hiiro for a while.

(what was that about...? The magical power coming from it felt really familiar....)

However, Hiiro could not recall it, and therefore stopped bothering about it and moved forward.

Chapter 288 – The True Identity of the Hero

Rock Jungle, as its name implies, is a dense forest dotted with many varieties of rocks of varying sizes.

It is a region near the bridge that connects the human continent and the demon continent, the Mütich Bridge, and an area where only one type of species of demons exist.

In that dense, rocky forest, a small bird from the sky came flying through the gaps of that rocky forest, then lowering its speed, it stopped at a certain place.

That place is on the shoulder of a certain person, and as if whispering something, the bird moved its beak towards the person's ear.

“.....finally found it? I sssee.”

The name of the man who spoke was Tekkil Scissor. Xaos Cruel

Division rank 3.

He was caught by the previous Demon Lord Avoros a while ago and was deprived of liberty. But there was a person who helped him. That is.....

“I knew I made the right choice of asking you.”

Floating up with a manly smile toward Tekkil was Judom Lankars. He is the Guild Master of [Human country · Victorias] who saved Tekkil when he was captured and imprisoned.

“So, what will you do from now?”

The person who raised the question is the second princess of Victorias, Faara. She had been sleeping for a long time due to the failure of the hero summoning, but suddenly woke up when Avoros took over Victorias and saved by Judom at that time. Now they are both acting together.

"I identity has been compromised, so first of all, I have to establish contact with the others, right?"

"That's right, but if it's true, they should have found out sooner..."

"Well, it has become like that. What was the name mentioned by that fortune-teller woman again?"

"[Hero] was it? Wait, is that wrong? Shouldn't it be Heroes?"

They encountered a woman named Maricris · Blue Note and, thanks to her, they escaped Avoros' hands, and Tekkil was rescued, too.

In addition, according to her, if it is to save the [Human Continent], she seems to have left some meaningful words to a certain “friend” – a boy, and then left. The boy was called [Hero], but it was actually about Hihiro.

"Although I gathered information on the [hero] all over the world with my magic, whether it was a hero of valor or a great person, it was a bit of a challenge that I could not get to himself. It's like the name was wrong from the ssstart."

Tekkil decided to become a helping hand to Judom who was his savior and looked for that person.

However, just from the term [Hero], which is vague as it is, it was too hard to reach the correct answer as it may refer to the present heroes, past heroes, or a middle-aged man of a similar name for all that matters.

Then, Tekkil met a middle-aged man with a name that somewhat resembled that [hero], and from that he thought that it could possibly be a name of a boy that was twisted around.

As a result, he investigated the existence of a boy whose name was similar to [Hero], predominantly around the human continent. Upon searching in the villages and towns of various places, a name had become a little matter of concern was identified.

That is the name HIIRO. When he heard that name, Tekkil remembered the boy he met in the past.

He also introduced himself as Hiiro. Although he was a boy with an unfriendly and arrogant attitude, aside from his degree of stubbornness that does not bend to anyone, he had an unyielding heart that would never break.

He was a very interesting and amusing boy, although they were only together for a short time. However, his intuition told Tekkil, [Hero] is all about Hiiro.

He told Judom the characteristics of Hiiro, and to his surprise, he said he also knew about the boy.

That he was from a different world and came into this world accidentally by getting involved in the Hero summoning. And that Hiiro went to the meeting place to help the Maou and saved her brilliantly.

Also, Judom was also informed that he repelled the Beast King's attacks easily. The more they talked about it, Judom began to think that he was the boy he was looking for.

Judom also wanted to see the boy again. When Judom said that he was the rumored central figure that formed the alliance between Gabranth and Evila, it left Tekkil stunned.

When he got informed that he defeated beast king Leowald in the battle, he strongly thought that that boy was the person whom they were looking for tirelessly.

Originally, Tekkil would like to inform the demon king that he was still safe right now, and if he wanted to find Hihiro, Tekkil gave directions to Judom to head towards the Demon Continent.

Actually, in the past few days, he noticed that Avoros' underlings have been searching for Judom's whereabouts. He may be safe in that shed, but it was still just a temporary measure.

Judom gathered acquaintances among adventurers and made hiding places in various locations, but those people crushed most of them.

Having judged that he will be found sooner or later if this continues, he decided to move. Fortunately, with Tekkil's surveillance, he was able to enhance his vigilance in the surroundings.

Of course, there is also a risk of moving around. However, because they actually possess several hideouts, they talked with each other and decided that it was better to move about even in this chaos.

So, Judom left the hideout toward a person ranked SSS as himself, the reliable Tenduk, and headed to the Demon Continent with Tekkil and Faara.

Tekkil had already grasped the information that Hihiro was in the Demon Continent. Until a while ago, there was information that he was in the [Beast kingdom · Pasion], but it seems that Hihiro was able to transfer back and forth between the two countries.

Now, he got information that he is practicing in a place within the Demon Continent, in Tekkil's country of origin, [Demon Capital · Chaos].

As he traced the location of Hiroy, it appeared that it seemed to be in the [Raohrb Desert]. According to the small birds that came back earlier, they finally got the information that they discovered the appearance of Hiroy in the desert.

Tekkil also heard the fact that they were saying things like returning to the [Demon Capital].

"Anyway, we have finally caught his tail, and the place is just right, it is [Chaos]. I just hope we can give our greetings to her majesty, and everything works out as desired."

"[Chaos] , huh How many years have passed since then?"

"Oh, has Judom been there?"

Faara seemed intrigued.

"Well, I went plenty in old days. I mean, it was not in a friendly meaning, as in the old days, the world was far more chaotic than ever. There were plenty of quests for the subjugation of Evila and Gabranth, and I was also a young adventurer and hot-blooded, hence I went hunting with great expectations of earning fame and money."

Judom reminisced the old days with distant eyes.

“And you ended up running away from Aquinas who would have cut you into pieccces at that time, did you not?”

“You...you sure are great at putting salt on people’s wounds.”

As Tekkil said in a smug fashion, Judom looked away, embarrassed.

“Eh? Judom-sama was defeated?”

"Well, well, Judom-san was not that strong from the beginning, and was still full of youthful follies. That time, he challenged Aquinas who already had the title of the ssstrongest Evila, and was beautifully treated as rubbish waste.”

“Hey you, that wasn’t it! And also, what folly are you talking about in my part!”

“Ahaha, wasn’t that great for you? , With that one loss, Judom-san came to know how vast this world was, and from then on, he trained himself desperately, acquiring the title of << Impact King >>, a title so fearsome that it can even make a crying child ssshut up.”

“...Was that sarcasm?”

“Huh? What part?”

“Because, such a man is now running away and hiding.”

Feeling displeased, Judom shook his head, and leaks a sigh.

“Well, that essscape is also the first step towards glory. Be patient.”

“It is also as he said! Judom-sama can shine even more once again!”

When Judom saw two faces blossoming into smiles, he became speechless first, but broke into a smile incidentally,

“.....Well then, shall we take that first step? ”

Then, he came out from the shade of the rocks, catching the dazzling sunlight with his whole body.

“Hiroy Okamura, is it...I thought that youngster with a red robe does not resemble anything like a hero anyhow.”

Judom was reminded of his best friend whom he had not met for quite a long time.

“Rudolph, who summoned the heroes, became a hand of the demon lord, and the ordinary boy who parted with them has become a hero. Quite ironic.”

If King Rudolph had captured Hiroyuki, perhaps the situation would have changed. But he is already gone.

The important thing was about to happen. Looking forward to seeing the boy whom he met at that time, Judom's expression, looking at the future, had already become bright.

A few days after Judom's departure for [Demon Capital · Chaos], Avoros, the current human king finally woke up and was listening to the information provided by his subordinates in the <Throne Room> where he was idling for a month.

“Hmmm, that Judom Lankars.”

Though he already knew about Judom’s planned escape and Tekkil’s desertion and their wonderful success, his manner of speaking was as if he did not care about them at all.

“Well, does it really matter? Though Tekkil could certainly be a good pawn for me too, I have Territorial who is his teacher and can also take advantage of him if I force him to do so, if I feel like it.”

Upon Listening to those words, Valkiria Series 05 next to him lowered her head.

"Another thing, while tracing Judom · Lankars' s whereabouts, there is information going around that he has been cooperating with Tekkil · Scissor all this time..."

"He probably was. Tekkil is a specialist who moves secretly, and manipulating information is his strong point too. So, who was it again... ah, Kainavi and Bijohnny are chasing them, right?"

"Yes, they are."

"Hmm, was the choice of personnel a mistake? If searching for people, are not Kirz and the others better?"

"They have other work to do."

"Is that so? Never mind. Rather than Judom, the world is more important...don't you think?"

"Certainly."

Again Valkiriya Series 05 gently bowed her head. Avoros then stood up from the throne and gave a nice smile.

"Now then, shall I declare it once again to everyone who lives in this world?"

Avoros' pupils shine dangerously.

Chapter 289 - War for Edea

That day, the sky that was supposed to be before noon, was suddenly wrapped in darkness like the night.

Everyone looked up to the sky for astonishment. Then the sun, which had poured warm light into the earth on that day, turned black as if it had lost its color.

It was a common solar eclipse. But in Edea it is said that the last solar eclipse happened a long, long time ago.

Why did it happen now of all times? All the people felt perplexed with this. And like everyone else, Hiroyuki who was in [Demon Capital · Chaos] also turned his eyes towards the sun which turned black.

Eveam, and also those who were in the demon lord's castle spread out to the field to check for the abnormal events. The "Cruel" division could also be seen beside her.

Everyone was lost for words, staring at the sun, as if they were

frozen.

Hiiro who felt a sense of incongruity at that sun gazes his eyes to observe further. Then I found a small point of light in the center of the sun.

(What ... is that thing?)

As they keep watching it, the point gradually spreads. It spreads throughout the sun as though it regained the sun's light, but it is obvious that the light is not the sun's light.

Everyone seems to have noticed the spread of that “light”, raising their voices altogether. Then suddenly the light became bigger and more intense, and something like a human face was projected there. In that shadow which gradually keeps becoming clear, Hiiro opens his eyes wide.

(It's him!)

hiiro saw a familiar face.

[Yo!, People who live in Edea]

It was the demon lord predecessor and now the current King of Victorias, Avoros Grand Early Evening.

Not only Hiroyuki, but also the demon lord Eveam and the Evila around them, held their breaths as the image of Avoros suddenly appeared in the sky.

[Can you see me?, Eveam]

Eveam scowled at the sudden call of Avoros.

"It seems that the time has come, as I told you when I showed my face to you last time"

Everyone said nothing, as they await for his next words.

We, "Matar Deus" shall conquer the world "

The surroundings began to hustle and bustle. Marione, who

stood next to Eveam shouted "Silence!" the soldiers become quiet.

"But if you say that you will not resist, and willingly become my subordinate, I'll promise you it won't come down to the point where we will fight"

Hihiro guesses that this image is reaching all over the world. I could easily imagine the appearance of the beast king Leowald raging at those words.

That really selfish tone of his speech, the more I get irritated the more I hear. Approximately one month ago, as Hihiro is made to experience hardships by one of those Mater Deus, naturally I cannot accept his offer.

And those who are here also

"Don't fuck with us!"

"As if we're gonna do that!"

“Our Lord is only Eveam!”

Such a voice of soldiers and citizens comes to be heard. Hihiro looks at the profile of Eveam who can't bear to smile as she was praised and shown loyalty by everybody.

Then that Eveam looking at the face of everyone, gave a nod,

"We will not yield to anyone! We will protect the country, even if means we have to war!"

Eveam's declaration makes the surroundings rouse again. Then as if expecting for that answer,

"Ha ha, surely this time Eveam is saying something that pierces my heart"

Although it cannot be determined if it has been received by the other side, it seems that Eveam's older brother had already been anticipated her answer.

“If that's so, then...”

He suddenly drive out hostility to such an extent that as if it transmitting through the image. His eyes are narrowed down, apparently overlooking everything that is reflected on the world as the light is lost in his eyes.

“Let’s declare the battle that shall involve everything, here. Now.”

Gulp, the sounds of people’s throat could be heard.

"Now then, shall we start? The war for Edea"

Suddenly, the light that was thought to have covered the sun shone red, as though it had burst out at once. And the fragments scattered in countless numbers and fell into the ground with with an urge to kill.

"Protect the citizens!"

Eveam was not upset at all. As if they were expecting Avoros to do something like this, she cried out, and the "Cruel" division

scattered from the spot immediately, releasing attacks and magic towards the threats falling from the sky.

"You guys, do not leave this place."

Hiroyuki also invokes the word "defense" then spoke to Lily and the others who were nearby. A large magical wall spreads on a hemisphere about 10 meters in radius around Hiroyuki.

Though I think this is unnecessary as we have the Cruel division here, but it never hurts to provide an insurance. But as expected of them, the attacks from the sky were dispersed one after another with their attacks.

(Well, it's just what I expected for a greeting of a template demon lord)

It is certainly an attack with a lot of bloodthirst, but the power is not so much put in it. Of course the attack range is big and wide, but I think it is also intense and fierce.

If it's in this degree, Hiroyuki judged that Muir and the others who

are also in trouble in [beast kingdom · Pasion] would be safe for now.

But all of them didn't notice. Among the raging violence falling from the sky, from there, was a killing blade that cannot be overlooked.

Countering the attacks from the sky with their own attacks and making them disappear, when the "Cruel" division and the soldiers thought that this level of attack is kind of a letdown, a sudden big red lump fell towards 【the Demon Capital】 came down.

It is Marione who responded to it. He created gigantic clods of earth towards the crimson-dyed attack.

At that moment when the attack touched the clod, it was quickly repelled.....

“What the, is that it?”

Marione let out a speech as if it betrayed his expectations. But then, at the next moment the red thing that was supposed to be repelled suddenly converges and turns back to a red lump, then falls to a certain direction.

“Your majesty!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

Seeing from the scream of Marianne, the attack was heading straight to Eveam. It was a fault of Marione who had never thought that the attack that should have been repelled didn't lost momentum and turned its fangs again.

No, it is also the fault of Eveam who let down her guard upon seeing it. She could only froze still as she was caught unprepared.

the murderous intent clearly aiming at Eveam changed its

appearance from a lump to a heinous figure, then to a single spear.

This way if it crashes to defenseless Eveam, the possibility of penetrating her body is high. It was a sure blade of death.

The red spear approached Eveam, and in that span of breath,

Bashiyuuun!

Everyone could only open their eyes wide about what happened in that moment. Because - a green giant suddenly fell from the sky grabbed the red spear aiming for Iveam.

the giant then throws the red spear back to the sky, but red spear instead moves in an unusual zigzag, then changes its shape to a human form.

Apparently the spear seemed to be a being in itself, spreading large wings and flying in the sky. And that being glares at the giant angrily.

Something was riding on the back of the giant. To the person who appeared, everyone of Evila was stunned as if the time was frozen.

“That’sss no good.....”

That’s.....

“the king sssshould not give up”

It was Teckil · Scissor, the "Third Rank" of the Cruel Division.

Chapter 290 - Teckil's Return

[T... Teckil?]

Eveam muttered unintentionally, looking at the figure riding on the shoulders of the Green Giant standing in front of her eyes.

[Hellossu. I was ssssomehow able to return.]

Eveam was frozen, she could not believe what was happening in front of her. In front of her blatant shock, Teckil looked onward while laughing and showing his pearly white teeth.

[Te-Teckil... is that really... you?]

[I am fine your Majessty. You ssseem to be holding on well ne!?]

Those words, it proves this was no ghost.

[B-but why...]

[I'm really sssorry, but first we should take care of that perssson.]

Teckil stared at the person who was floating in the sky.

The huge wings extended from his back, by looking at him one would know that he belonged to the [Demon Evila].

He had brown skin and a small horn protruding from his forehead. Along with his sharp ears, any of these characteristics could be judged to belong to the [Demon Evila].

But the strangest characteristic was its eyes. Which had no pupils, no light seemed to be in them.

Truly “inhuman.”

Looking below him in disdain, the man suddenly spread his arms towards Eveam.

A mass of crimson flames produced, who's target was all too obvious.

[He is about to throw the spell!]

Marione screamed as soon as he noticed the man's behavior.

Everyone started to prepare to receive the attack.

[Itssss fine yo.]

[... Teckil?]

When Teckil spoke such strange words, not only Eveam, but also the soldiers who heard them went [Eh?].

Turning towards Eveam, Teckil smiled.

[Just becaussse I am here doesss not mean that I came back alone. I came back with an assistant.]

[Aa-assistant?]

The moment Eveam replied, a huge figure came falling from the sky towards the [Demon Evila].

Noticing something odd, the [Devil Evila] focused on the falling figure.

With utmost care, the devil sent the crimson flames towards

this new threat.

Surprisingly, when it met with the shadow, the flames which held enormous destructive power scattered and vanished.

As if confirming the target's position, the shadow started to plunge directly toward the [Devil Evila]. Leaving no chance for it to escape.

The figure hit its target in the chest, forcing the [Devil Evila] to plummet along with the figure, creating a small crater in the ground.

Everyone's eyes focused to the now clear details of the man who fell from the sky.

[..... Ju-Judom!?!]

With Eveam's shout, everyone was finally able to know who the person was.

[Yo, its been a while Maou-chan.]

He was the Guild Master of [Victorias]. He is Judom Lankers, he was the man who had helped the country through its tough time as a substitute for King Victorias a while ago.

[Surround the Enemy!!]

Aquinas roars from his spot.

The soldiers immediately moved after receiving their instructions. In merely seconds Judom was surrounded.

With Judom's tremendous blow attacking the devil's chest, it became disfigured and was clearly caved in. It seemed even tough for the creature to stand.

Strangely enough, his deadpan expression remained the same.

Could it be that it could not even feel the pain?

Aquinas approached the devil warily, and when he looked down at the devil he narrowed his eyes slightly.

Slowly, Aquinas pulls out his blade, and then...

Bushin

His neck was beheaded.

If it was normal, then blood should have splashed on a huge scale.

However, nothing squirted from the cut on his neck.

Rather, the body of the man gradually collapsed into sand.

[.... As expected.]

Aquinas as if understanding the situation, appeared thoughtful but those surrounding him were perplexed.

Paying no heed to others, Aquinas stowed his sword once more and turned towards Judom.

[It's been a while... Judom, yo.]

[Ah, last time was at the meeting.]

They exchanged eye contact.

In the meantime, there were signs of the person who was previously in the sky but it was something else entirely.

It was a huge bird.

Most of the people around them were surprised but none of them panicked.

It seemed as if they knew who the bird belonged to.

The bird was produced through magic by the [Demon Evila] Teckil.

[The two of you, how terrible of you to leave me behind!]

And moreover, everyone was looking perplexedly at the little girl who was on the back of that bird.

[Sssory about that, but I figured that Princesss Fara would be much sssafer on the bird than with usss.]

[I was extremely surprised as soon as the both of you jumped from this child.]

[Sorry about that Fara, you can scold us later. Right now, I hope you can understand the situation... you can right]

Judom continued to stare at Aquinas.

[That's right. For now, let's concentrate on the [Devil Evila], we can slowly speak about this later.]

Aquinas also said so and returned to his original expression

after taking a glance behind the bird.

[Apparently, the attack just a while ago seemed to only be a greeting. The real thing is still coming.]

Your majesty, please contact the Beast King, we need to hold a meeting.]

[A, aa, that's right. I understand.]

Eveam also breathed out and thought that it was useless to have an expression which showed her being upset and immediately steeled her face.

[Everyone! The Predecessor Demon Lord being Evil has been confirmed! The war shall formally begin! We shall not bow down

to such a person!]

Slowly, the soldier's morale rose due to the cry of Eveam.

[However, the attack has stopped for now. But this does not mean that it won't happen again! I want you to be wary of your surroundings! If you find something suspicious immediately report it!]

The soldiers all replied with a resounding [Yes!] unitedly and headed back.

Eveam turned her gaze towards Teckil.

[I have something to say before you tell me about the past events.]

[What might it be?]

[.....Good job, you have returned safely, and thank you.]

[Ehh; please don't sssay ssuch a thing to me your majesty. It feels weirdly ticklish.

I will tell you all about the reasssson why the two of them are here and what I had been doing for ssso long.

But, there is something I must say first.]

The moment Teckil got the shoulder of the Green Giant, the giant crumbled and turned into liquid before getting absorbed by the earth.

The bird quickly followed suit.

[Teckil scissor has returned, your majesty.]

[Umu, we were waiting.]

Eveam cheeks relaxed joyfully.

Hihiro kept silent thought the whole scene from when Avoros declared war right until the end of battle.

Since a helper had appeared amid battle.

There were two people who looked familiar to him.

One was Judom Lankers.

Hihiro had met him once during the meeting.

Although it was only two or three words, he had a strong impression of the huge man.

The other was Teckil Scissor.

He was acquainted with him.

And also travelled with him for a while.

During that time, there were two other people: Arnold and Muir.

But they did not know that Teckil was one of the [Demon Evila]. And did not even know his real name.

At that time, Teckil had changed his identity to that of a beast man.

But it was still seen through by Hihiro's word magic [Peep].

Why he had changed his identity and why he was lying was unknown, but Hihiro was surprised when he learned of his

identity.

Of course, Teckil was quite confident in his disguise, but even he was surprised when he heard the words of Hihiro and began doubting his disguise ability. He asked Hihiro to keep silent about his identity.

Teckil had no intention of doing something to Hihiro when he heard about it. Although he could not find out Teckil's purpose, he was still allowed to go as he had promised that he would not bring harm to anyone.

Certainly, as Teckil said, there was no harm because of his existence at that time. Although the two had parted nicely, he had not seen him since then. Surprised to see him so suddenly, and in such a place, Hihiro began wondering what Teckil might be doing.

Hiiro knew that Teckil belonged to <Cruel> when he saw his status, but he was wondering why

he was not able to find his existence even though he had been in [Demon Country] for so

long.

At the time, Hiiro had thought that Teckil might have simply died, but he felt that he was alive.

Then there was the other one, Fara who was about the same height as that of Muir.

Hiiro did not know who she was yet, but he wondered what

Judom and Fara had come here for....

At that time, Judom fleetingly glanced at Hiiro and suddenly smiled. As if he was saying: [See ya later.]

Despite this heartwarming gesture, Hiiro received a more mysterious feeling.

Soon after, Teckil came near Hiiro.

[Its been a while Hiiro-kun.]

[It really has been, Pseudonym-bastard]

[Ugh... I really wissssh that you sstop mentioning that time. You really can't exssspect me to give away my real name right..?]

I remembered that he had asked me to call him Tenii at that time.

Of course, Hiiro knew his real name but just spoke with sarcasm laced in his words since he felt nostalgic about those times with the pseudonym-bastard and couldn't help but say it out loud.

[Actually nee, Hiiro-kun I have a ssstory that I wisssh to tell you about.]

[....To me?]

[Thatsss right. I think that the majesssty will ssson have a meeting and I hope that you can attend it in the near future.]

Frankly Hiiro felt that it was troublesome.

However, now Hiiro himself had a grudge with <Manta Dues> he might as well join and listen in on the potentially valuable information.

[All right.]

[Seriously! Ahaha, thatsss good!]

As usual, Teckil laughed wryly with friendly humor while Hiiro just shrugged his shoulders.

Hiiro looked at the sun hanging in the sky

(It looks like things will get busier in the future)

Originally Hiroyuki did not want to participate in the war.

But <Matar Deus> who was currently engaging the war in particular had a connection with Noah Black.

(I will make sure that you regret having picked a fight with me.)

With a strong determination in mind, Hiroyuki started to walk behind Teckil.

Chapter 291 - A Bewildering Apology

In the Conference Room of the 【Demon Country Xaos】, in addition to the Upper Echelon of the 【Demon Evila】, Hiiro was with them.

Teckil and Judom were in the centre, and they started to talk.

Hiiro heard the entire story silently; Lilyn and Silva also listened to the story with listless expressions.

Hiiro looked as if he was not interested but he would have left if he truly had no interest in it, and so Hiiro continued to listen in on the explanations.

Eveam was listening and did the talking once in a while after taking a breath.

As for what they were currently explaining: Teckil had been caught by Avaros and was later on rescued by Judom and was helped by him, and the girl next to them was the Second Princess of 【Victorias】, Fara.

But most importantly, everyone there was wondering why Fara had come to such a place.

And so Judom explained that he had saved her and also told about the how Fara had slept for more than a year after failing to summon a Hero.

There were some occasions where she spoke up, and Fara's expression was somewhat uneasy and looked like her legs would give away at any moment, but since Judom was by her side, she spoke without feeling too intimidated much by the atmosphere of the place.

Certainly, if you looked at the situation, there was no chance of negotiation since they did not know what kind of an existence the enemy country was.

To her, it seemed that the existence of the【 Demon Evila】were more like a savage and uncouth existence that couldn't be reasoned with.

However, as she came to understand Teckil who was a 【Demon Evila】, her thoughts seemed to change little by little.

(Fuu~, So this is the second princess.....)

Hihiro looked straight at Fara who had Orange straight long hair that reached her waist.

Hihiro could see that she looked similar to the First princess Ririsu who had summoned Hihiro and the others.

She gave off a young and petite feeling, but the light in her eyes gave off a strong impression.

White skin and blood red lips.

At the beginning when she was rescued, they said that she had little strength in her body. But right now, her cheeks were filled with Vitality compared to how hollow they seemed when she was skinny. She did not look anything like her former appearance.

Somehow her condition seems to have improved.

Then, as if noticing Hiiro's sight, Fara turned her eyes naturally towards him.

But suddenly, she dropped her head, and her shoulders shook with small movements.

Just when Hiiro was wondering what she was going to do, she raised her head and looked into his eyes again.

What was more concerning was that her expression turned pale.

Then as if deciding something, she nodded lightly and got up from her chair, and headed towards Hiiro as if deciding on something.

Others were bewildered by her actions.

"I'm sorry!"

The room went silent.

".....why are you apologizing?"

Hiroyuki's eyes widened at Fara's behaviour, which everyone found quite surprising.

But Judom and Teckil's expression did not change, while the rest were surprised.

Everyone was wondered about the meaning behind her actions.

".....I heard that Ririsu-ane-sama was the one who summoned you"

"Is that the first princess? Then there is no mistake."

"That is why I am apologizing in her stead."

".....?"

Hihiro inclined his head as if being unable to understand her actions and looked towards Teckil unintentionally as if demanding an explanation from him who seemed to know about the circumstance.

But he simply shrugged his shoulders lightly.

"Hihiro-kun, Princess Fara is apologizing for having summoned you even though it wasn't done by her, for her sister who summoned you."

".....but why are you apologizing?"

"Eh? Because the sssummoning was forsssed right?"

With Teckil's explanation, everyone finally understood Fara's true intention.

"I understand now, then this means that you apologising on behalf of your older sister who selfishly summoned us to a different world without our permission?"

".....Th-, Yes that's why."

Fara lowered her head lightly.

However, Hiiro heaved a sigh.

"This was caused by the First Princess, so don't mind it."

"B-B-but!"

Fara raised her head timidly.

Earlier, she had heard from Judom about the current situation of the world and about the significance of being the Hero.

At first, she thought that it was her father who had given the orders for the summoning.

Then she understood that it was all her father's self-based thought.....which was hardly any of her own thoughts.

"The【Demon Evila】is evil.At this rate the【Demon Evila】will destroy us.Therefore I shall call for a Saviour from another world. And ask for them to help us."

Only such words were heard from the king.

And as result of carrying it out and having failed in doing so caused a 《Recoil Rebound》turning her into a Sleeping princess.

But when she awakened, she then heard about the truth and cruelty of summoning the Heroes.

That the Heroes had a family, in their own world.

Moreover, what they had done was synonymous with

kidnapping by considering the circumstances of only one side; forcing them to become strong and using them like puppets that they own.

Fara heard what happened and thought long and hard about it; she understood the depth of the crime that was committed.

This was the reason why Fara apologised even though it was her older sister who had summoned Hiroyuki and the rest, she also felt responsible for what had transpired.

Right now her eyes were brimming with guilt and regret and asking for forgiveness.

She felt fearful of what Hiroyuki would say.

Nevertheless, she did not take a step back and instead lowered her head waiting for what Hiiro was about to say as though she was the culprit.

(I thought that all the people in the royal family were as stupid as the king.....but there seems to someone like this as well)

Her attitude in the face of her family's sin was praise-worthy.

However, it was still an irrelevant apology to Hiiro.

Because,

"I am grateful"

"....eh?"

Hihiro's words were unexpected to which Fara could not help but open her mouth absentmindedly.

"When I was summoned to this, I felt rather grateful"

"eh.....Wh-why is that?"

"This world.....is really interesting."

"I-interesting....?"

There were not many people who thought that the upcoming war for 【Edea】was interesting, There was no way that could possibly be right.

If something were to go wrong by even a little bit, then that would cause them to lose their life.

In fact, the death toll would spiral out of control.

Every time, Hiroyuki would have to overcome them with only his sheer power and wisdom.

If he was to make a single mistake then there wouldn't be a next time.

But still, this increased his interest and there was nothing much more interesting than this in the world.

"And that's why you shouldn't feel bad about having wronged me."

".....!?"

"Certainly, it was a coincidence that I arrived in this world, and I am thankful for this coincidence. I have received your apology, so don't mind it"

"....."

"That's why.....stop crying"

potapota*pota*, several drops fell onto the floor.

It was Fara's tears.

"hi.....bu.....t.....i.....wa.....scar....."

Even if she were responsible for the summoning of the heroes, she knew nothing; neither did the heroes, if Hiiro was to die in this world, then he would only think that it was his own fault and nobody else's.

"th.....i.....apo.....ane-
sama.....dad.....in...place...of.....wanted.....higu"

She was a gentle person by heart.

Even if Hiiro was to hit her then she would stand there and not mind, this was her atonement and was ready to accept it.

Although Hiiro did not blame her, she seemed to still have the weight of her family on her small shoulders.

Looking at such a person, Hiiro felt that she would become strong later on.

However, Hiiro felt uncomfortable looking at Fara who was crying in front of him and wiped her cheeks. For some reason, everyone focused on Hiiro, looking at him as he wiped the tears away from the crying figure in front of him.

".....haa, stop crying already. Moreover, it is unreasonable to apologizing for things and carrying the burden for things that you didn't do"

"higu....gu.....u"

"If you really want to apologise then apologise to the Heroes(Shinobu and Shuri) that are in this castle. I don't need it."

".....gu.....Hero.....sama ?"

"Oioi Hiroyuki, can't you be a little gentler to the crying girl with your words?"

The 【Spirit】 Ten who was sitting on the table spoke up.

"Shut up, I already told her that I received her apology already. But if you think about more carefully then there is no reason for me to receive it right?"

"Even so, but can't you be more gentle to this cute girl....."

"That's why I said I don't mind it, I really don't mind it anymore. Did you hear that, crybaby? If you really want to apologise to someone then apologise to the Heroes do you understand?"

".....Cr-.....Cry Baby....."

"Understood?"

"ah, Yes desuno!"

And Hihiro crossed his arms and forcefully finished the conversation and after finally affirming that she did not speak anymore he quickly closed his eyes.

And after that, Ten led the Stunned Fara back and the story continued.

When Fara Returned to her seat, a Hand stroked her head, it was Judom's as he said "It will be fine"

Soon after Teckil and Judom began speaking and after completing it completely, Eveam opened her mouth with a difficult face.

"Okay, I'm sorry for what happened, Teckil. I was unable to help you"

"Iya iya, it's fine. As a matter of fact, I didn't really know anything but I was able to live and even got a partner to get out from that place."

"Sorry. And Judom-dono, as it's like this, Thank you very much for saving a precious person of my family"

Eveam obediently lowered her head.

Although it did not matter, Hiiro thought that the imperial family should not lower their head so easily.

It is natural for people to thank and apologise, but the Royal

family had to refrain from ever performing such behaviour towards someone besides their own family.

(Well I guess this is much better than a person who does not even know how to thank or apologise)

Hihiro saw Eveam's appearance with thin slit thorough his eyes, before simply closing his eyes.

"How were you able to know that Teckil was imprisoned by Avaros. and why did Judom help Teckil escape from Avaros. But if you could have, it would have been better for you to have contacted us before, Teckil."

Eveam lightly blamed Teckil a bit.

Teckil lowered his head with a bitter smile on his face,

"Hmm~ that is sso, but it wass because Judom-san was there who need help and sso we had to go through the Demon Continent Boundary on foot and had to make ssure that everyone was ssafe and had a place to hide."

"Is that so, Judom-dono what was the request that you had?"

When Eveam asked that, Teckil spoke "That is....." and looked in

Hihiro's Direction.

Naturally, all the members of the meeting in the room also focused their eyes towards him.

Feeling the weird quietness after the conversation had stopped, Hihiro slowly opened his eyes.

he then saw that everyone was looking at him for some reason.

"Actually.....me and the othersss heard a sstrange story from a ssertain ssss someone.

Well, I did not hear it directly but..."

"A certain someone?"

"The Fortune-Teller that we spoke of earlier"

Eveam then muttered "Ahh" as she remembered it.

Everyone had heard about the Fortune-Teller advising Judom.

"It seemed that the Fortune Teller had advised Judom go with me back to our country to meet a certain Boy to befriend him."

Hihiro had started to get a terribly disgusting feeling welling up within him.

And that feeling seemed to have been proved right,

"And that Boy iss Hihiro-kun who iss ssstanding right there."

Chapter 292 - Prelude to War

Teckil said something completely out of the blue. Judom seems to have someone he must meet by any means, and Teckil is helping him find this person, to return his favor.

Isn't this fine? But the problem is that person. Well. Based on all the things that happened, you can say that the person he's searching for is Hiiro.

Frankly speaking, they weren't even at the level of acquaintances as they haven't even had self-introductions with each other yet. Nevertheless, Hiiro looks puzzled, not understanding the reason why Judom wants him.

[.... What do you mean by that?]

Hiiro asked Teckil again, confirming their intentions of this matter.

[Accthually...]

Teckil told the story of the fortune teller who appeared some time ago who muttered the name: Hiiro. Judom didn't know yet that she made that 'mispronunciation' on purpose and took it as "Hero" instead. He seemed to have Teckil looking for a person with that name.

Then, after some twists and turns, they finally found out that "Hero" is actually "Hiiro", clearing the reason why they came to find him.

[Well, itssss not here where we found Hiiro-kun, but in the Raohrb Desert.]

After hearing their story, Hihiro remembered that strange little bird he had met in the desert. The bird was formed with mana, he also observed an existence was within it.

[Is that bird by any chance, you?]

[Haha, it iss. Hirro-kun iss quite hard to find.]

Teckil gave a bitter smile. It was true; although it was good that they found him in the Demon Continent, he still had to look for Hihiro in the nooks and crannies of two other continents before coming up here.

Then, after lots of detailed investigation, they finally got the information that Hihiro has been training recently in the Raohrb Desert.

(If I am not mistaken, this fellow's magic is called <Picture Magic>.... A very convenient magic indeed.)

Though the person himself is ignorant of his hypocrisy, Hiroyuki without a doubt thought it was convenient.

After finally summarizing everything, Teckil asks Judom.

[And, what now?]

[What do you mean by “what now?”]

[Why are you asking that to me? Weren't you searching for him to make him team up with you in the first place?]

After talking for a bit, Hihiro remembered that he said he would make Judom his comrade, or something similar.

Hihiro directed his gaze to Judom, who stared back. After a brief pause Judom speaks.

[Nay, Teckil, I don't want to force the boy to join anymore.]

Judom's following words hit Teckil by surprise.

[Wh-what happened? Didn't you come here to make Hihiro your companion? Or are you still thing that "Hero" is not Hihiro-kun?]

[No, isn't that. Upon meeting him, I know this boy is who we

were searching for.]

Not only Teckil, but Fara also stared at Judom in wonder.

[I-if that is the case, then why...]

[Cuz, you know, no matter how you look at it, isn't this too sudden? "Because we need you, join our team." You want me to say that?]

[Well, but....]

[First of all, why go to a fight where to wager your life? In a battle like that, I can't force someone to follow me for my own selfish circumstances.]

[Judom-san....]

Apparently, the human named Judom, even if he is in disadvantage, seems to be a person who doesn't like to choose actions that will twist and bend someone else's life.

[And then, after realizing that the other person is a young boy, the more I did not feel like it was wrong to do so. Do you know how this boy came to this world? He was caught up in the hero summoning which is already against their will! Even if the boy says he is lucky, he still has his own life. Like I said a while ago, he has the right to pursue enjoyment in this world. Even though we have a need for him, isn't that just using him for our own convenience?]

Almost as if denying Judom's words she tries to confirm his reasoning.

[B-But we are trying to stop the Demon Lord Predecessor, and if left as is, what will become of this world?]

[Yeah, I know what Teckil meant by that. But still, to force

someone... I don't want to do it!]

Being showed a solid will and unwavering determination made Teckil fall silent.

(So.... This is what the old Guild Master is like.)

Hihiro, who was doing an evaluation of the man in front of him, felt admiration from his core. Of course, he also knew that not caring about the other party's mind might be the norm of this world.

But, even after taking away that from the equation, he respects his determination to stick to his ethics. Honestly, he felt sympathy in forcing someone to help. Even if you win over someone by force if he or she did not have the resolve, aside from the fact that you may be betrayed at the time of an emergency, the possibility of failure will increase. Eventually making a big loss in the process.

(He's a completely different caliber from that Demon Lord...)

He was made to recognize Judom as a big, but gentle man.

[That's why, I want to do it this way.]

Just like with Fara, Judom came closer to Hiiro. He stretched out his hand towards him.

[Sorry for the late Introduction, I am Judom Lankars. The leader of the Rebel army, but it's gone now.]

When Hiiro saw him stand up from his chair, he was astounded by Judom's body size. In a singular word: Giant. Seeing the firm muscles under his armor, no excess fat could be seen at all.

A body of tempered steel. That was the impression it gives off.

Seeing the extended hand, Hiiro's his eyes moved to his face, a warm smile. Everyone held their breath, watching what Hiiro will do.

And, Hihiro grasped the hand held out to him.

[Let's put our hands together for the time being. I became a little interested in you after all.]

(TL Note: inb4 Mandatory "Kyaa, Kyaa" and JudomXHihiro ship incoming.)

(EN: From what little I have read/edited, this was a match made in heaven. Nothing can stop this BL to come into fruition.)

Hihiro, who has very little interest in others, was he drawn out a little bit by Judom's charm? Just how was he interesting, on a different meaning from Demon Lord Eveam?

Therefore, he decided to wait and see, what these

circumstances will lead to.

[Heeey, Hiiro, didn't you say that you want to give Matar Deus a good score?]

Tenn suddenly came between them.

[So those guys here have decided to fight them? If that's the case, prior to us joining hands, does that mean we are all with the same mind?]

(TN: That annoying monkey.)

Everyone was taken aback. What Tenn said is certainly correct, if we have the same purpose, then we can become allies.

[Ah, am I perhaps, disturbing the mood? My bad, my bad!
Ukikiki!]

(TN: That moronic ramapithecus.)

Certainly, what he just said is a sound argument. As everyone's eyes focused to Tenn you broke the good atmosphere the person itself is apologizing, but no remorse could be felt within it. Which Hiroyuki found frustrating.

Thanks to the bad timing and pushing in, Hiroyuki just got lost on what to do with his hand that is currently grabbing with Judom's.

As for the other, he seems to have felt that way too, and pulling of a cramped smile, he matched Hiroyuki's gaze. Then, suddenly, Judom –

(EN: Pulls Hihiro in and into his embrace right!? If he is a man he must!)

[Fuh! Ahahahahaha! I guess you have got me there! It is what this monkey has said! Wait, no! Sorry, that was impolite of me, High Spirit!]

[Eeh, so mister has seen through me?]

[You think I won't know? There is that enormous magical power being concealed inside of you, aside from the fact that you can talk despite looking like a common monster. If your not one, I don't know what you could be.]

Judom compared as he observed Hihiro and Tenn

[A partner, huh.... Wait, are you that boy's sword? You and that sword give a strangely similar vibe. Perhaps, you did a contract with that boy and used the sword as a medium?]

Hihiro expressed admiration over Judom who has hit a triple bulls-eye completely. Tenn also couldn't help but to whistle a tune.

[You really nailed it pops! By any chance, you know someone like us?]

[Well, I was an adventurer for quite a long time, so I have met lots of rare encounters.]

[Ukikiki. Pops, let's talk about it with some liquor sometime!]

[Oh, very well! How about you boy, are you okay with that?]

Judom releases his hand from the handshake, then made a drinking gesture to Hihiro.

Sigh [...You guys, could you talk about that later on?]

[.....Ah.]

From that, realizing the reproachful gazes in their surroundings, they look at each other, embarrassed. Tenn was poked in the head by Hihiro, while Judom was scolded by Fara.

(These two people really are cut from the same cloth.)

Hihiro, now knowing that Judom and Tenn got along well with

each other surprisingly, could only shrug his shoulders.

[Ehem! T-Tenn-donno is right, and as what he said, there is a common purpose between us! Though I am curious about the fortuneteller whom Judom-dono had met, for now, we need to raise countermeasures for the future.]

Eveam interceded the place, and the mood which loosened became tight once again.

[We will set up a meeting with the Beast Kingdom Passion at once. Are there any objections?]

It has now become essential to talk with Passion now that they

have become an ally. Nobody had an objection to gaining some help.

Eveam looking at the reactions of everyone, finally nodded.

[Fumu, now it is possible to organize the allied force of Evila and Gabranth. Though it is quite reassuring, we still haven't had an accurate grasp of the strength of Avoros' side. I have sent several spies and investigated for a while. So far, their defense has been firm, so we couldn't obtain accurate information in detail. However, it should also be the same on the other side. So for the first step, we should check up on each other and try to maximize our greatest war potential. Though we missed our chance to be the first to move, in this war... We shall win!]

Eveam, at present, has a pure strong determination that could be seen in her gaze.

(Hou, so you can make that face too? Or, have you reached that point where you can now do it by yourself? Which one is it I

wonder?)

Hihiro seeing an expression he couldn't imagine from her from the first time they met, could only stare at her with admiration.

Apparently, these people in here have all united to support Eveam, but Hihiro was thinking about something different.

(Still, a fortune-teller, huh... Who the hell is it?)

Though Eveam had also thought about the fortune teller in question, Judom didn't speak about it because the fortune-teller gave a strict order not to say anything about them self.

(Why does that person know me? I don't recall encountering it....)

But when he first came to this world, he had met an old woman who looks like a fortune-teller. But Hiiro had already forgotten her completely.

(Well, if that muscleman were right, then it is possible that this story will come out soon, and maybe, well' meet sooner or later.)

(Right then, I knew all the various things that were going on at the time would start to become clear. I could feel it.)

Then the conference had pushed forward, and on the way, Pasion too, was contacted and information was obtained.

The other side also encountered a raid from the sky like this, but everyone seemed to be alright. And it seemed that they have decided to hold a follow-up meeting immediately.

With this, the world was now divided into two.

Avoros' Demon Lord Army VS Beastmen-Demon Alliance.

It was such a setup.

Chapter 293 - The Mysterious Letter

First off, it seemed like the stalemate would continue for a while. This was the time to grasp the details of the enemy's strength.

Normally, one would judge that the Allied Army would be stronger since two races had combined their efforts with each other, but Avoros had a way to reverse this superiority situation into an inferiority situation.

Avoros could manipulate corpses as he wished. The title that he held《The Extremely Powerful Death Magic User - Necromancer》was not just for show.

If the dead corpses can be used as pawns, then there is no greater annoyance to the Enemy.

This was the ability that Eveam was the most scared of, the ability itself can be considered as separate War Potential.

Fortunately, Avoros had remained quiet since the Declaration of War. However, the silence brought about an uncanny Eeriness.

Most of the human's soldiers would immediately attack the Demon and the Beast Continents to show off their military might but there had been no movement from the Human Continent.

Avoros did not have a cautious attitude and would not think of not

moving, Eveam was extremely alarmed by this and immediately tasked the forces to gather information.

A few days Later, 【Demon Country Xaos】was in state of unrest. This was because the Beast King Leowald from the Beast Country would soon be visiting the capital, and the Purpose of the visit was of course, to plan for War Counter measures.

Right now, near the East Entrance of 【Xaos】 stood the Upper Echelon of the Country along with the Demon Lord Eveam waiting to Receive the Beast King.

"You have finally arrived Leowald-dono"

Eveam welcomed him with a smile.

"I am pleased to have been welcomed by you. However, it is best we start the meeting immediately, Avoros might just start moving while we do this. "

"That is possible, right this way Leowald-dono. "

Eveam took Leowald and their subordinates followed behind the two and turned their path towards the Demon Lord's Castle.

"How did the surprise attack fare? I heard that certain information was obtained. "

As the two walked Eveam asked Leowald.

"Because we knew what we were doing, we were somehow able to survive. "

"That is certainly good news. "

According to the story spoken by Leowald to Eveam, 【Beast Capital Passion】was also attacked in the same way as Xaos but with the rain as the attack method.

And at the same time, just like how Eveam was aimed at, someone aimed towards Leowald in the same form fiercely.

However, unlike Eveam, Leowald was able to defend quite well and used his power to force them back.

"According to the investigation, the person who attacked was a corpse which was being manipulated by Avoros. "

"Eh, Aquinas here also came to same conclusion. "

At that time, although Eveam was slow to notice, Aquinas was able to instantly notice it at a glance.

Behaviour as if impervious to pain, and as if pain could not even be felt and finally, withered away turning into sand.

This confirms with aspect of what happens after Avoros uses the dead as a puppet.

It was judged that, the person that was sent to cause trouble was definitely a dead person and was used as sacrificial chess piece.

"But one thing is true Leowald-dono.I was safe because i was protected by my subordinates.... "

Leowald laughs heartily while Eveams smiles bitterly.

"Even so that is way of the King. "

"EH? "

"I have always acted as the fighting king and always used force to grind the enemy into dust at the expense of my own body, but that is not necessarily how you should be.My path is my path and your path of king is yours and yours alone"

"Leowald-dono..... "

"Is this not what the lord always says. I want to be a king who can protect and lead everyone. "

".....Yes. "

"Moreover, there are various ways to protect.

Some lords like myself will protect everyone simply using their own strength.

But to support each other and keep the others from getting strayed away, and to make sure to take that one step ahead and shine the path, that is the path of the lord so that the people behind the lord do not hesitate to walk the same path together. "

""

"Certainly, ideals without strength is fragile.
But for a lord to come hand in hand with everyone to make everyone's
ideal come true with the
power the people's hearts.
Is it possible for the strength of a single power to win against it? "

"Th-that.... Hihiro....."

Leowald who heard Eveams muttering smiled gently.

"Certainly, it was Hihiro who had defeated me.
However, that happened only because you were able to form a bond with
Hihiro.
Am I wrong? "

".....I Understand. "

"Then the lord should make the bond grow stronger. And then you should
become the lord that can everybody can depend on and be the lord that
can lead everyone. "

"..... Yes! "

From the former dark expression Eveam and to the now smiling Eveam, it
looked like all her
hesitation had been blown away.
Leowald also shook his head with satisfaction.

And the party soon passed through the castle gates and entered the
castle.

When the beastman entered the Demon Lord's Castle, the sun was seeping in and warming the beds of guests who were resting.

Various books were scattered around a Certain bed.
Even though the world was currently surrounded by unusual circumstances, Hiiro was the only person who slept and was going at his own pace.

Lilyn, Silva, Shamoe, Mikazuki and Kuzel the five of them did not choose to live in the guest room but chose to stay in a residence in the【Demon Capital Xaos】but due to Silva they had once again move their residence.

Nikki and Camus and Ten【Spirit】lived along with Hiiro and therefore stayed in the same room.
But right now, the three of them were in the Military Grounds.

It seemed as if the entire ground were being energised by Ionis and Schublarz, they seemed to be refining and matching the regiments to the soldiers.

As Nikki and Camus also wanted to grow stronger, it was a good place to obtain experience for them.
Ten was there just to kill time.

That's why, Hiiro was the only one in the guest room.
The window slowly creaked open, the curtains lightly shook, and wind started to enter from the Outside.

"..... hm? "

Hiiro slowly opened his closed eyes, slowly raised his upper body and

flexed while yawning then
stared at the open window.

(.....Was the window open?)

Although his memory was vague, he felt that he had definitely closed it
before going to bed, because there was no wind up until recently.

(Did someone or maybe a maid came in and opened the window.....)

When he went to lie down again without thinking too much, his eyes fell
on particular book.

"This is....."

This book, it was not the first time he saw it, but he found it funny that this
book was here.

The book's title was 《Adventurers of Tinkle Vail》.

It was the book that Hiiro had read before in the Flower Garden
of【Dogamu】Village.

Briefly said, it was the story of a Hero.

Once Hiiro reads a book, he does not read it a second time.

And he does not remember bringing this book here.

In other words, someone had put this book near his bed.

(Maid....? No, No-one has done anything like this before, so it is too

unnatural)

Hiiro judged that there was no one in this castle with high enough stats to avoid his senses.

Because bluntly put, it was Hiiro.

Since there was no one in this castle who would feel unpleasant to talk to him directly although he appeared unfriendly.

As he was the person who had saved the【Demon Evila】, there was no one who viewed him as a human, rather they thought of him as their own.

Therefore, the involvement of maids or soldiers placing the book here was negligible.

Then how about the ones close to Eveam such as Aquinas? After all he knew that I liked to read.

However, he has never done such a thing so far, even if he was going to, he would say something about it previously.

He could not understand who had put it here and Hiiro threw the book onto the bed with a *pon* but it is fact that someone had entered the room.

Moreover, it seems that there was no malicious intent with regards to Hiiro and that person.

When Hiiro came to this world he had experienced various things, and somehow, he was able to develop a feeling of understanding when a person had ill or malicious intentions towards him even when he was asleep.

Since Hiiro could not find the existence of the person and neither any

malicious intent, Hiiro was able to infer that said person had no intentions of hurting him.

Then why, just why did he put this book here.....? Is it to return to the origin.

While looking at curiously, Hiiro took the book into his hand.

On the page next to the poster was a letter.

Hiiro looked through the contents of the paper within the letter multiple times with his eyes wide Open.

Hiiro closed the book with a *Patan*, wide awake with a serious expression spread across his face, he immediately put magic power into his finger and wrote the word 『Teleport』.

In the next moment, Hiiro vanished from the guest room and only the light sound of wind was heard inside.

Chapter 294 - Meeting with Alicia

Hiiro was now in a forest which was situated to the south of "Demon Continent Xanos".

It wasn't really a huge forest.

However, <<White Cumin Fruit>> and the <<Ubudo Fruit>> which could only be found in the Demon Continent were produced here, they were quite delicious.

Sometimes Hiiro would come here to eat the fruits.

But, that was not his purpose this time.

He silently walked through the forest to a hidden spring.

Hiiro knew that it was located near the center of the forest.

As for why Hiiro knew such a place...

"Was it you, who put the book there?"

There was one other person there.

Hiiro couldn't recognize her from memory.

She had dark blue hair tied into a ponytail.

With a slim body of a model, there was no extra fat anywhere. Everyplace just had the right amount of proportions.

In addition, she had thin makeup on, lips that glowed crimson which complemented her fair body.

Make-up on such a youthful and beautiful appearance looked unnecessary.

It looked as if she was royal princess from light novels that appeared in his world. Her body exuded dignity and elegance.

But then again, even with her eye-catching appearance, Hiroyo concluded that this was the first time of him meeting such a person.

After Hiroyo spoke, the lady looked on with a smile.

"That's right, Okamura-kun.No, maybe this would be a better way of calling you, Hero of "Demon Evils"."

pikun Hiroyo's eyebrows were raised.

Apparently, this lady seemed to know quite a lot about him.

"I've heard about you.And also..."

"You also, know quite a bit about me.Because, I was the one who lectured you on how to use magic."

"...eh?"

Wha-what did she say? She taught me magic?

I thought I might have heard wrongly, but as I looked at her face which had a pleasant smile I could tell she wasn't joking looking in her eyes.

However, no matter how much Hiiro looked through his memories, he swore that he has never met this woman. Let alone learned from her.

".....Who are you?"

"Don't look at me like that.You can see that I have no hostility against you right?"

"It's natural for a person to be alert when somebody says something like that."

"Kikiki.... Do you not feel anything speaking to a lady like this?"

"Answer me.Firstly, what is your name?"

".... Why don't you just use inspect?"

She did not respond to Hiiro's question, but rather put on a calm and cool behavior.

Certainly, even if he could not get information from her mouth, he could get it by using the letters such as "Peep" or "Inspect".

But he had never said that to anyone.

Of course, this was leaving Arnold, Muir and Liliyn.

To be able to determine the <<Status>> of someone was one of Hiiro's biggest advantages.

This was why he had judged that it was better to not tell anyone about it and had acted along all this while.

However, her single answer caused Hiiro's heart to shake and caused him to contort his face unintentionally.

"Will you use investigate this time? It wouldn't take a long time.It is possible for information to be collected in a moment..."

"You can do it right? If you use your <<Word Master Magic>>... Right?"

"!!?"

As expected, there was unrest in Hiiro's expressions.

Maybe she conducted an observation which should have taken quite a long time to investigate and was considering the question herself: what was Hiiro's magic? She also understood that information could be obtained the moment my magic was used.

"..... What are you talking about?"

"Fufu, it is good that you immediately suppressed your expressions. If you didn't you might have gone senile.It's quite the valuable ability.But, you don't need to hide it.

Because I know you, no, because I know about your magic. I have quite the bit of knowledge about it."

"What did you say?"

Hiiro's alertness was increased one step further and continued to glare at her.

"Ah.. can you please stop glaring like that? Because I do not have the power to fight you even if I wanted to."

Certainly she did not seem to be joking, from a while ago she seemed to be contorting with a *Bishibishi* due to the killing intent. Her

expressions also seem to be filled with pain.

I had no choice but to restrain my killing intent and stopped glaring at her intently.

Then she exhaled as if relieved.

"Fuu~ thank you. But still, you seem to have really grown up. Back then, you were just a person who had just crossed over to a different world."

She also seems to know that I am from another world.

Hiiro's interest in this woman slowly increased with time.

"Let me solve your headache, so that you can relax soon."

"...."

Hiiro continued to watch her, and suddenly white smoke started to emerge from behind her, starting to wrap around her and....

".... Do you remember now? About the mysterious fortune teller?"

.... I remembered.

Looking at her appearance, the memories from the past immediately surfaced.

That's right, there is no mistaking her, she was the one who taught me the necessary information of this world. Including how to use magic and how its inner workings.

"..... The fortune teller from then? Fortune... Mas.....? You... couldn't be!"

I remembered the topic about the fortune teller from the story a few days ago.

The fortune teller who helped Judom and advised him to look for Hiiro.

How could I have overlooked this?

"Fueheheh, that's right.It was me..."{1}

With a *bon* the white smoke appeared and wrapped around her letting the beautiful woman from before reappear again.

"The fortune teller who guided Judom Rankers to find you, and the person who wrote the book that you hold, Marquis BlueNote."

"..... Marquis?..... It was a woman."

Gakun Marquis immediately dropped her shoulders.

"So..... then?"

Marquis had a wry smile to the surprise that Hiiro was expressing about.

"We-well its fine.One more thing, i'll tell you about it even if you don't use inspect."

"... ?"

"Marquis Bluenote was my pen name as a writer. My real name is completely different."

"....."

"It's Arisa. Arisa Niapipis Victorias."

"..... Victorias?"

It's the same as the Country of the Humans. "Victorias".

It can't be this person is.....

When Hiiro smiled as if noticing something, Arisa shrugged her shoulders.

"I know that you wish to tell me something, I understand that, but for now I need to know what your telling me is the truth. Can I investigate?"

"....."

Needless to say, I was going to use <<Status>> to confirm the authenticity of her words.

Hiiro used "Peep" since he had already obtained confirmation from the other party.

And as he looked through the status of the title written there, Hiiro closed his eyes and muttered

"As I thought."

"Understood?"

"..... I have various questions. But, what I want to hear first is..."

Hiiro then picked up the book that Arisa had placed in his room and cuts the letter that had been affixed inside to show it to Arisa

"It's about the contents of the letter written inside."

Arisa looks at the paper that Hiiro brought out and loosens her cheeks.

And confirms the contents of the letter.

"The truth of this book. That is the entrance to the door that leads to the darkness.

If you wish to learn the truth, I would like for you to come to the spring in the South Forest alone."

When Hiiro read the contents of the letter, he could not help but laugh and pass it off as something as a joke, but there was a strange sense of attraction that he could not explain for some reason.

Darkness.... Hiiro had guessed it was about the war, and the enemy of the world <<Matar Deus>>.

Hiiro expected that their interactions will increase with time.

Although there was not much information about this time.

So even if it was a trap, Hiiro wanted to make sure through his own eyes.

Moreover, He was most concerned about why he wanted to see this through himself.

Perhaps asking his question was the first reason Hiiro wanted to come here.

Arisa shrugs her shoulders at Hiiro and turns to gaze at the spring.

"Hey, what did you feel when you read that book?"

".....Is it related to something?"

"Listening intently, a sigh could be heard from Arisa.

"No, I just felt like asking.Can you tell me? What do you think about the life of the main character of this book?"

"Well, I felt that his life was quite miserable."

".....Right, that it does."

"The main character who yearned for the country and people led the battle to protect the peace desperately with his life on the line.However, he was killed by the king of his own country.

Yet, the main character could not give up his fight for peace. The main character kept waiting somewhere living on as soul somewhere forever.It was such a story.

Do you also think that anyone who reads also feels that the main character was miserable?"

Betrayed by those who he trusted, and peace was within his grasp. But, was extinguished in the blink of an eye.

It is no wonder that people's heart feel sorrow when something like that happens.

Abnormal attachment to peace, the former hero continued to fight all those who had even the smallest possibility of becoming a disaster.

It was such a tragic and pitiful story.

"Tragic.....But, it was the country and the world that turned him into what he became."

Arisa tried to speak while looking far into the distance, it seemed like her mind was somewhere else entirely.

"..... You can't be trying to say that this story had really transpired right?"

When Hiiro said so, she looked at Hiiro with a smile which was filled with loneliness and sadness.

".... It can't be....."

"... Fufufu~"

She met Hiiro's gaze head-on.

Her smile broke and looked on with a serious expression.

"I want to tell you the truth that has transpired."

"Why?"

"Truthfully, I wanted you to enjoy this world without you knowing anything about this... since I saw you the first time."

"But, the world has started to move greatly. I had previously decided that I would not do anything anymore."

"....."

"But it was of no use. It seems like that world does not wish to leave me alone."

".... You, what are you trying to say?"

Arisa did not answer Hiiro's question, she only closed her eyes.

"What I am going to speak from now on, you will feel that it is something unbelievable.

Even so.... Do you still want to listen?"

"Obviously. That is the reason why I came here."

Arisa had a smile on her face as she locked her gaze with his.

"Fuuf, that's what I thought.

Then, I shall tell you the truth....."

Hiiro remained quiet and concentrated on what she was saying, while doubting his own ears about the truth that he heard.

Listening to the story caused Hiiro to have sweat pouring from his forehead, his expression kept hardening as Arisa continued to speak with

time.

Chapter 295 - Unwavering Hiiro

A few hours after Hiiro met Arisa, the sun sank and the night dominated the world.

On the terrace of the castle "Victorias", one boy stood alone overlooking the scenery of the streets with a smile.

"As expected, its changed quite a lot."

"...Even if you erase your presence, I advise you to not get so close alright?"

While closing his eyes, Avoros, the reigning king of Humans in Victorias, directed his words to the back.

"Oh? As expected of Avoros-shi."

Appearing from the darkness was not the strange attireless <<Matar Dues>>, but someone cloaked in white with a strange face guard.

Through it's rough voice, the only other identifiable feature, it was a man.

"Its you as I thought.What do you want?"

"I just wanted to ask you how it feels to be a king this way."

"If your talking about being a king, then I have already experienced it."

"That's true, but it's your first time being the king of humans, right? Even if you're only a temporary one."

"Temporary... huh.Kukuku, certainly that is true.I don't really care about the people who live here after all."

"...Are you really going to move?"

"Kuku, you seem to be in a strange bind, right?Is it really fine for you to stay here?"

A muffled laughter could be heard from the man who bares the strange mask.

"No, no. I just wanted to see the interesting thing that was happening with my own eyes."

"Is that so? Your hobby is unexpectedly quite strange."

"Is it really that worse from yours?"

"Kuku, maybe. Who knows?"

"Alright then, I will go around somewhere."

"Are you leaving already?"

"Eh, I certainly don't wish to be a busy body."

"Eh, if it can be allowed; sure."

Avoros turns around and faces the man.

"Are there.... More of you?"

"Eh, that depends on if you can keep me entertained, you know?"

"Fuu~. Then it looks like I have to work hard."

Avoros shrugged his shoulders in an exaggerated manner.

The man slowly faded into darkness, just as he arrived.

Avoros continued to glare at the existence that had left.

After staring for a while, he turned around and returned to look at the cityscape once again.

However, his expression was not as loose as before.

"There are some things that can't be done. Even at the cost of the entire world, I cannot hand it over."

His face filled with sorrow, he whispers to himself quietly under the starry sky.

Hiiro laid on the bed, consumed in thought.

At night, a time when he normally would be cruising through books Hiiro continued to ponder about the story that Alisha told during the day. Only Hiiro's breathing could be heard, the lights in the room were switched off and the room was covered in darkness.

Hiiro stared at the ceiling, borrowing the light from the moon.

His gaze slowly moved to the windows and looked at the night sky.

"You can tell if I am lying or not if you use your magic, can't you?"

He remembered his conversation with Arisa.

She was right, using his magic he could not be deceived.

"The reason why I told you all of this, you already know."

"....Why?"

"Eh?"

"I know that the story is true. Then why did that brat leave me alone?"

"....."

"If I noticed such an existence then I would either bring that person to my side as a colleague or eliminate the person."

"True. If such a person was not a friend, then there would not be an existence more troublesome."

"Then...."

"That's why from now on."

"What?"

"Avoros might actually start doing something from now on."

"Is this what your Fortune Telling skill is telling you?"

"Unfortunately. Fortune Telling is not so universal."

Hihiro got up from his bed and opened the window.

A cool breeze shook Hihiro's raven black hair.

Hihiro flew out of the window using the character "Flight".

Now in full view, the full moon shines brightly in the night sky.

Hiiro flew straight ahead as if aiming for the moon.

After reaching a considerable altitude he stopped flying and remembered the conversation with Arisa.

"Be careful Hiiro-kun."

"....."

"There is a reason why Avoros did not move against you up till now.

But considering that magic you inherit, it is not possible that he would leave you alone.

Moreover, you have decided to fight, right? He is the founder of <<Matar Deus>> after all."

"....Ah."

"The only thing I can do, is give you this advice.

It's regrettable, but I don't have the ability to fight Avoros."

".... It's not like the army will be able to completely deal with them, right?"

".... Eh?"

"There are various methods to a fight.

Thanks to you, I was able to slightly understand the aim of that boy.

Advice and support so that he does not fight himself? At least it looks that way."

At that moment, Arisa's stunned face was quite interesting.

"..... Fufufu, as expected you're quite strong. You resemble that person similarly."

"I will not change.This world, the moment that I stepped into it, has become my own.I will not allow the world to be destroyed before I have enjoyed it."

"Hiiro-kun..."

"There are plenty of books and food that I still haven't tried.If that guy is trying to destroy the world, I will stop him.For BOOKS AND FOOD!"

"..... Ahahahahaha! You are truly an interesting guy.... Hey Hiiro-kun, do you still remember the fortune that I told you before?"

"I forgot it."

"Ara? That's terrible for you, fufu.But still, that fortune was incomplete."

"Incomplete?"

"Eh, I told you this earlier.Everyone has a star in their heart." (This is straight out of chapter 3)

With that single sentence, Hiiro remembered that she had said the same thing on that day.

Each has its own shape, color, size and radiance there are hundreds of thousands of variations.

It was the fortune that Arisa had judged by looking at Hiiro.

Hiiro's star was burning red with a blue outline which outshined everything else.

A complete sphere with change in shape anywhere on it.

With a glow which emitted dazzling light which would arouse the eyes of any onlooker.

"The light is gentle and warm.A strong will that would not waver."

"....."

"Inside the light, I could see a small seed."

"A seed?"

"The origin of the seed is unknown.It's a premonition for the future.The seed has yet to flower."

"Seed... huh."

"I don't know what kind of flower will grow, but I know that everything will go well when it does."

"Is this Fortune Telling?"

"Fufu, no.no. This is more like, intuition?"

"I don't understand properly, but I shall pave my own road. That's it."

"..... Understood.

I shall also do what I can.See you again, Hiiro-kun."

Hiiro remembered this conversation that he had with Arisa while looking at the moon and allowing the night breeze to ruffle him.

At that moment, he could feel a slight weight on his shoulder.

"..... What do you want yellow monkey?"

Ten the "Spirit" appeared on Hiiro's shoulder.

The monkey could teleport to any location where the <<Katana Zangeki>> was at any time.

The evidence could be seen as he had appeared on Hiiro's shoulder when he was so high in the sky.

However, there was no smile on the monkey's face, he looked seriously at Hiiro.

With that look Hiiro could understand what happened.

"You heard it right?"

"..... Aa, you had said it before, right? <<Zangeki>>-chan and I share sense with me.

You must have properly listened in, right?"

"..... That's right."

The two looked up at the moon in the same way.

"Hey Hiiro, no matter what Avoros does, let's make sure to foil it."

"Obviously."

"Ukiki! Though I am quite surprised by the truth, but the past is the past right? It has nothing to do with the present."

"Ah, it's time to have a good time with <<MAtar Deus>> soon.

That shall not change."

Once again, Hiiro's resolve was strengthened.

Chapter 296 - Meeting With Nikki

{AN: The cover illustration for the book arrived from the illustrator and I was shocked the moment I saw it.

Hihiro looks really cool! He looks like the Demon King! It was really the perfect illustration!

Also, there is Muir, I would like to formally warn the lolicons about that.

Although it is not completely done, it was still a complete illustration and could be used as is.

I already have a collection and will be saving the best ones for myself.

There is still a month left, please look forward to it!

"What!"

"mu!"

"right!"

"Sweet!" }

In the training grounds of the Demon Castle, two people were exchanging fists.

One was continuously thrusting, kicking and jumping while the other was lightly dodging everything.

"How about this!"

Nikki clenched her teeth while gathering magic in her right fist. As she was about to thrust it out, the attack was thwarted by her wrist being

caught.

"No WAY!"

Nikki was thrown into the air by using the momentum of her right fist. She was able to stabilize herself and kept her momentum while falling.

"umu, good momentum."

Nikki's opponent was the Beast King Leowald.

He could feel the enthusiasm within Nikki and looked on with a smile.

"One shot technique: <<Explosion Fist>>!"

Nikki reapproached Leowald as she was, at the moment when the fist was supposed to collide, the strike was shook off by Leowald and grappled Nikki by her foot.

"Uu~ please release me desuzo!"

"Ghahaha! You have good motivation, there are no flaws in your movement either, but it's still insufficient."

While saying so, Leowald releases the hold, Nikki immediately spins her body and retreats away from her position.

"Then how about this! <<Explosion Fist Dual Fist>>"

A chunk of magical power was released from Nikki's fist.

"Hou, you can also do something like that."

Leowald widened his eyes and admired, he put one of his hands forward and grasped at the projectile that was flying over.

"H-how can that be!?"

Nikki shouted out loud and was surprised that it could be grabbed.

A small explosion was set off in Leowald's hand.

Nikki who thought he would have suffered a lot of damage from the explosion grinned, but soon Leowald's figure could be seen from the smoke.

"hmmm, it just stings a little."

Loking at Leowald's hand one could see a small burn on it.

"uu~ He is as strong as master desuzo~"

Nikki sighed with regret, but soon kicked at the ground and rushed towards him again.

"Gahaha! Now you are going to randomly swing, but that is also fine!"

Loewald puffed up his muscles and stood in a daunting pose.

It was his declaration that he would accept this challenge head on.

However, Nikki immediately decreased her center of mass and immediately a small explosion occurred at her feet. Her speed increasing by multiple folds.

"muu!?"

Dogon!

Nikki head-butted directly into the abdomen of Leowald.

"Nuu!"

Leowald clenched his teeth so that he would not be immediately blown away.

He skidded 2 meters before coming to a halt, and grabbed Nikki, who was near his stomach, smalling her into the ground.

"Agu!"

Pushed to the ground, Nikki was unable to move.

".....That's enough idiot disciple."

Nikki's master who was watching the battle silently signalled the end of the battle.

If you could look around closely, you could see that there were a multitude of colours in the background. There were the soldiers of "Demon Evila".

As for the reason why Nikki and Leowald were having a showdown, it was because Leowald had originally come to the "Demon Capital Xaos" to discuss the strategies against Avoros. When the meeting was done, they had decided to take a break. Leowald requested that he wanted to meet Hihiro during that time.

Hihiro was at the training grounds with Nikki, and the rest could be understood from there.

When he arrived, Leowald also wished to let out a sweat while looking at the soldiers and Nikki who were training.

Hihiro also thought that it would be a good thing for a change once in a while. As Nikki was Hihiro's disciple, Leowald willingly accepted the duel.

Nikki was also very enthusiastic, she was going to duel with Leowald! He fought beside Hihiro before!

Originally she immediately said "Watch me win desuzo!" and became overconfident. Hihiro lightly tapped her head and gave her a sermon.

The result was, of course, as expected. But, Hihiro was satisfied at the fact that she could at least stand for a while against Leowald.

Although there were still a lot of flaws, the growth of his disciple was delightful.

(Come to think of it, when I first met her, she couldn't even speak properly....)

Hiiro started to feel nostalgic when he started think about how he first met Niiki.

That's right, it was when he started travelling with Lilyn and only a month had passed.

Hiiro was travelling with Lilyn, Silva, Shamoe, and Mizadzuki.

Incidentally, Mikadzuki had yet to change into human form and still remained in a monster figure.

The other day, Hiiro heard some rumors about a village, and decided to drop by. It was truly bizarre, that a monster was raising a person.

Monsters that have basic intelligence was already quite low, and they only mated with those of the same race keeping those with intelligence low.

There were of course exceptions.

A few were able to live with people, some of them which can even understand human languages.

However, it is said that most monster do not have the intelligence to be able to raise a person.

A monster would be cautious of someone who isn't of the same race.

Literally saying that there was a monster that was raising a person, it seemed the same as kidnapping a child.

But Hiiro was very curious about such an interesting event.

There was certain knowledge that could never be obtained from books or people.

In such a fantasy world, this was an interesting event.

Looking at something with their own eyes, feeling something with touch, and being unable to believe if it was the truth or not, even Hiiro was able to believe such rumours without seeing it himself.

Monster raising people.

It was the same as animals raising people.

I don't know whether it was true or not. But, if it was true then I was really curious about what kind of person this monster was raising.

Just recently Hiiro had read a book, of which a child was born to monster which could not speak. and a person, and this opportunity seemed to trigger what kind of a person this was.

"The place where the monster inhabits is called "Bamboo Hill" huh...."

Hiiro muttered while looking at the bamboos that were spread all over at the front.

"That looks like so."

When Silva nods, Liliyn sighs thinking as if it was troublesome.

"Should we really go? It is certainly interesting that a monster is raising a person, but why do you think it is so amazing?"

"That is, something that we can't say until we see it right?"

"....That is certainly true."

"Moreover, it's not really a long distance.

I also wanted to visit "Bamboo Hill" so this is also fine."

"Hou, it's something that you have heard for the first time. Why do you feel like heading there?"

"I have heard that there are delicious bamboo shoots over there."

Liliyn looked at Hiiro's eyes and shook her head in amazement.

"As expected, your just a lump of gluttony.Well, it's just like you."

"Nfofofo! The bamboo shoot will definitely be cooked by Shamoe-dono and myself so please have your fill!"

"wa,wha, wha yes! I will try my best s-so please try it!"

Mikadzuki also showed her eagerness and intention of wanting to eat by screaming "Kuikuikui!"

"Then, let's head there for now."

With that, Hiiro and gang headed towards "Bamboo Hill".

As far as the eye could see, various kinds of bamboo could be growing in various sizes.

The long one's end could not be seen as they stretched to the skies, the larger ones had the same thickness as Hiiro's waist.

Hiiro had never seen a bamboo that thicc before. {TLN: It's a pun.}

It wouldn't be strange if people were to walk out of it.

Hiiro remembered something that he had read in his childhood.

While everyone was watching the strange bamboo, the sound of flapping wings could be heard from the sky.

"What is that?"

Looking up at the sky, a monster with wings could be seen.

Hiiro also thought it was monster of the bird species. But looking at its arms and legs that were slender and long, it looked more similar to a person that had wings growing out of its back.

The skin was reddish black, and the black fang which peeped from the mouth was very impressive.

Looking at the expression and instincts of the monster, it looked like it did not wish to make friends with them.

When the monster came closer to Hiiro, it suddenly raised an ear piercing scream,

(Che, Such a noisy thing)

Hiiro's face distorted when the screeching sound was released.

Liliyn also frowned while her eyebrows drew together unpleasantly.

"Silva, what kind of monster is this? It's my first time seeing such a thing."

Liliyn asked silva what Hiiro was about to ask.

But Silva shook his head.

"No, I have lived for quite a long time, but this is the first time i'm seeing such a monster."

"Fuueeee! I-I a-am s-scared d-desu!"

Not only Samoe, even Mikadzuki also ran to Hiiro's back and hid. Asking Hiiro to exact revenge.

The monster started to shake and tried to bridge the gap between them.

"It's coming....?"

Hiiro raised his vigilance and slowly pulled out <<katana Zangeki>>.

Suddenly, it did something unexpected. It bit a bamboo with it's long teeth.

"What?"

Thinking of what the heck it was doing, Hiiro looked at the monster and soon the place where the monster had bitten the bamboo had turned back from the discoloration.

(What.... What is it doing?)

While trying to decipher what was happening, the monster was suddenly blown away and was rolling away on the ground.

Hihiro and the other turned to look at what had blown away the monster.

It was monster, a bear monster, and on it's back was a child.